

June poll prospect killed by 2m figure

Biggest rise in jobless total for 20 years

By ROSS TIEMAN AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE number of people out of work passed the two million barrier last month with the biggest rise in unemployment since current records began 20 years ago.

The seasonally-adjusted increase of 112,900 has almost certainly killed the dwindling prospects of a June general election. Ministers are aware that the country has yet to feel the full effects of the recession, in spite of recent falls in inflation and interest rates.

March saw the twelfth successive monthly increase to a seasonally-adjusted total of 2,092,700, the first time the toll has passed two million since December 1988. The number out of work rose by 486,100 in the year to March, a 30 per cent increase. The rate of job losses has quickened while the number of vacancies declines, so that unemployment is rising by an average of 83,500 a month.

Many independent forecasters expect the total to top 2.5 million by the end of the year, as the economic downturn continues to feed through in factory and office closures. Productivity has fallen, to a level 1.8 per cent below that of a year ago, and unit costs are 11.6 per cent up on last year.

There were two modest sources of encouragement for the government in figures released by the employment department. Wage rises slowed, from an average 9.5 per cent in the year to January to 9.25 per cent in February. And the number of days lost through industrial action, 33,000, was the lowest for any month since July 1953. The fall in wages was, however, largely the result of cuts in overtime and bonuses.

The government's economic record took a further knock in the Commons where John Major, a junior Treasury minister, admitted that economic growth since 1979 had averaged only 1.75 per cent. Norman Lamont, told MPs, however, that he expected the economy to pick up in the second half of the year.

Until that happens, ministers say a general election cannot be contemplated. One said that it would be impossible to go to the country with firms closing every day and with a jobless total rising steeply above two million. Although the worst should be over by October, John Major may, he said, be better advised to wait until next year.

The unemployment figures brought rowdy exchanges in the Commons. Neil Kinnock branded Mr Major "the prime minister of unemployment" and said that anyone who had been the cause of so many others losing their jobs ought to lose his post as well. "Since he became prime minister, 330,000 people have lost their jobs, all as a direct result of his economic policies."

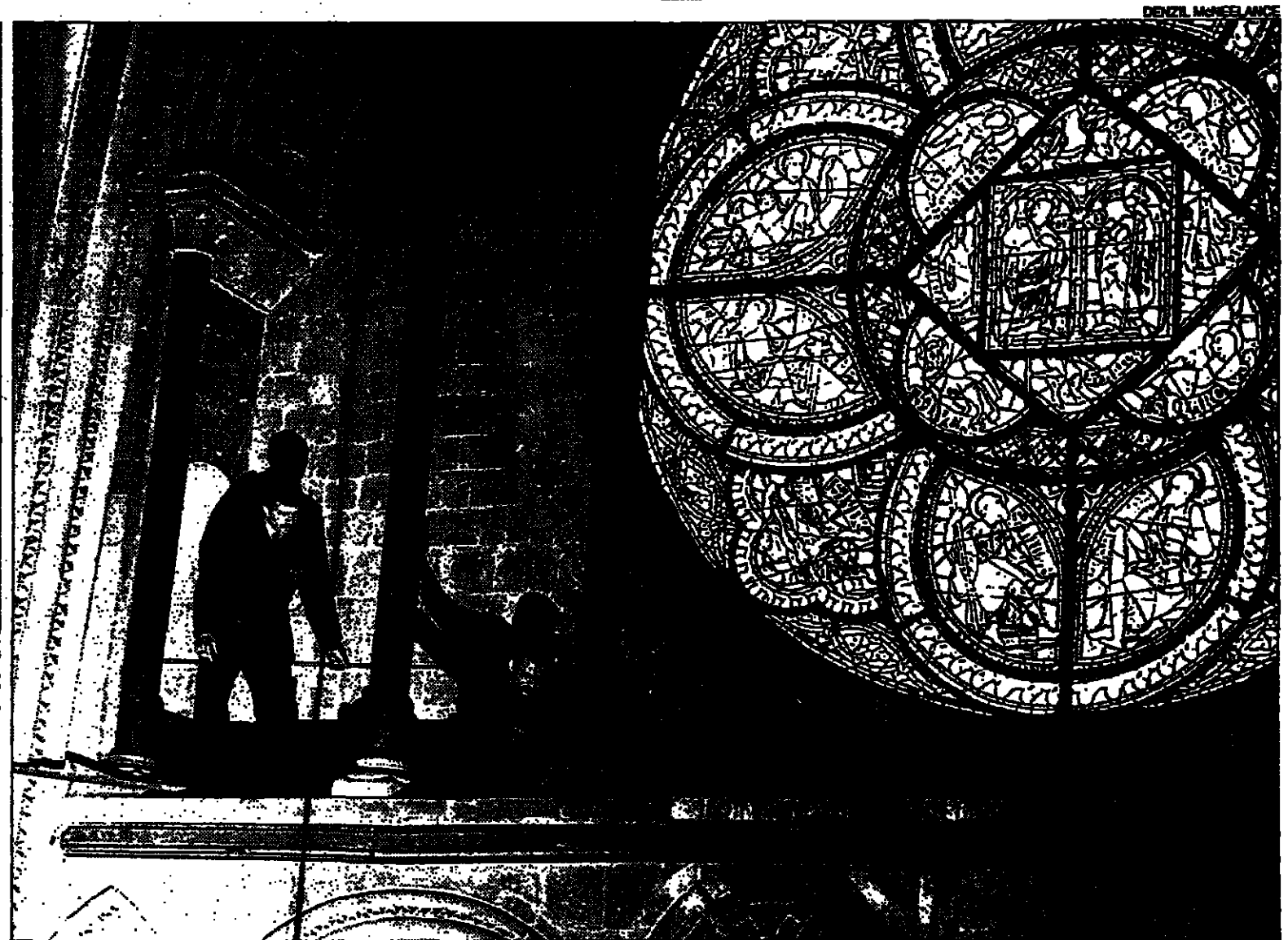
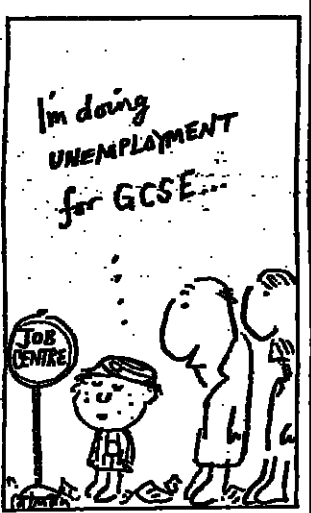
Mr Major replied that Labour's proposals would create "a level of unemployment we have never previously seen in this country". The way to ensure secure employment was to bring

inflation down and keep it down. That battle was being won.

The prime minister added that Britain's unemployment rate was below the European Community average and there were many more people in work than under the last Labour government. The national rate of unemployment is now 7.4 per cent. For men, the figure is 9.7 per cent and for women 4.2 per cent.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said the figures were very regrettable, but the scale of the increase was partly attributable to the fact that they covered a five-week period in which bad weather had disrupted industry. Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, described the increase as utterly devastating. He urged the government to introduce a special programme to provide job experience and training for the unemployed, an idea endorsed by the Liberal Democrats' Alan Beith. Mr Beith complained that jobs were being lost at an horrendous rate.

Jobless statistics, page 2
Leading article, page 15
Output fall, page 25



Window spotting: Constables Richard Goldard and Philip Wright searching Canterbury Cathedral yesterday in preparation for the enthronement of Dr George Carey as Archbishop of Canterbury today. Some 2,200 guests are expected. Reports: pages 3, 14, 18. Letters, page 15

Aid for Iran held hostage

Iran has more refugees than Turkey, but no aid. Is the West using the Beirut hostages as bargaining counters? Edward Gorman reports from Tehran

President Bush has trumpeted what the Americans are calling the largest peace-time relief effort in history. The logistical back-up mobilised for the Kurds in Turkey includes 60 helicopters and warships, with 13,000 troops organising camps close to the Turkish frontier. Yet perhaps twice as much help is just as urgently required in Iran which, despite its best efforts, has been overwhelmed by the scale of the exodus from southern Iraq.

Neither America nor Britain is prepared to help the Iranians with the hundreds of thousands of refugees on its borders with Iraq, until Tehran makes a move to secure the release of the hostages held in Beirut.

President Bush spoke earlier this week of his hopes for improved American-Iranian relations, but he excluded Tehran completely from his plan for safe havens in northern Iraq. He said the "bottom line" on progress between the two countries remained the hostages. "I'm not suggesting Iran holds them, but I am suggesting Iran could have a great deal of influence in getting them out of there," he said.

British officials here deny the two issues, and say the future of British-Iranian relations are being treated quite separately to the refugee problem. They cite other factors limiting Western aid efforts like the difficulties of launching significant programmes in a country with which Britain and other Western nations have only limited relations, and the

US warns Iraqis to stay clear of Kurd havens

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL EVANS IN LONDON

THE US commander of the allied force setting up safe havens for Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq will meet Iraqi officers today to ensure there will be no interference from President Saddam Hussein's troops. Washington yesterday warned Iraq not to use aircraft north of the 36th parallel, well to the south of Zakho, where the special camps are expected to be established.

Lieutenant-General John Shalikashvili, who will command about 16,000 American, British and French troops, will meet the Iraqi military in Zakho at noon today. The Pentagon estimates that there are still 30,000 Iraqi forces inside the area north of the 36th parallel in which the camps will be located. American military survey teams continued to search for suitable sites yesterday and the Pentagon said they had yet to encounter Iraqi forces.

It was announced in London yesterday that an advance party of Royal Marines had left for Turkey to prepare for the arrival of about 5,000 commandos and British army specialists who are to take part in Operation Haven, building

and guarding the camps in northern Iraq. The decision to send the marines was announced in the Commons by Tom King, the defence secretary. The marines, from Plymouth-based 3 Commando Brigade, commanded by Brigadier Andy Keeling, will operate from Turkey, with units rotating to the refugee camps. The advance party, led by Air Vice-Marshal Dick Johns, from the joint forces headquarters at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and Brigadier Keeling, will recommend the manpower and firepower needed.

But Ministry of Defence sources said the total number of British troops to be sent would not exceed 5,000. Extra Royal Engineers will be sent to support the marines.

Yesterday Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, telephoned Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, in Paris to underline the coalition's view that the presence of American, British, and French forces in north Iraq was consistent with UN Resolution 688. Señor Pérez de Cuéllar told Mr Hurd there was a possibility the coalition

refugee camps and UN relief operations to be mounted in Iraq would be "meshed together after a time".

Yesterday Iraq signed an agreement with the UN which pledged to ensure "safety and relief" for the refugees.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the UN special envoy, told a Baghdad news conference he expected some form of co-operation with the allies. "We all hope that the allied plan is going to be a humanitarian operation that is not going to last too long and that it will dovetail with UN operations in this country," he said.

The State Department welcomed Iraq's agreement to the UN plan for humanitarian centres in Iraq and hoped it would provide the basis for the UN to take over allied camps. The first contingent of Royal Marines will leave for Turkey at the weekend.

Marines in top gear, page 13
Slugging match, page 14

Lords defeat over life sentences

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government and the judiciary were thrown into direct conflict last night when the Lords decided by 177 votes to 79 to abolish the mandatory life sentence for murder. Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, is expected to challenge the decision and ask the Commons to reinstate the penalty in the criminal justice bill next month.

Legal heavyweights in the upper House lined up with more than 30 Tory peers and most Labour, Liberal Democrat and independent peers to oppose the leader of the House, Lord Waddington, who argued for the life sentence to continue for all convicted murderers.

Instead the peers backed the Lords select committee recommendation to allow judges to decide whether to impose the life sentence or to fix a set term of imprisonment. The rebels included Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice.

Peers vote, page 7

GOOD WRITING IN THE TIMES

INTERVIEW

Kate Mair meets Dr Margaret Hewitt, whose boom is very nearly sonic on the vexed subject of Dr George Carey's attitudes Page 18

COLUMN

Janet Daley on the future of teachers and teaching is that another fine mess that Labour has got out of? Page 14

CINEMA

David Robinson on *Chinatown*. Kane, fifty next month, the "greatest film ever" that RKO wished it had never made Page 20

INSIDE

Women's victory

Six women pensioners, all former employees of British Gas, have won their fight to be compensated for being forced to retire at 60. Page 3

Gorbachev shift

President Gorbachev has made a small concession to Japan by agreeing to hold future talks about the disputed Kurile islands. Page 16
Photograph, page 24

Peace talks fear

Politicians in Ulster have expressed fears about an escalating campaign of indiscriminate murder aimed at undermining the talks on the province's future. Page 24

Woosnam wilts

Ian Woosnam, the US Masters golf champion, fell from grace with a first-round score of 82 in the Benson and Hedges International. Page 44

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'Council' tax based on two-person home

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A PROPERTY tax based on two people living in a home, and levied according to capital values, was agreed by the cabinet yesterday as the replacement for the community charge. Under the new "council tax" to be unveiled next week by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, there will be substantial discounts for people living alone.

The last lingering doubts in the cabinet over returning to a property tax, abandoning the poll-tax principle that everyone should contribute to costs of local government services, were removed in an hour-long discussion yesterday.

The outcome will be contained in two consultation documents, one on local government finance and the other on its structure, to be published next Tuesday or Wednesday. Under the cabinet's "strong preferred option", properties in each area will be placed into at least five bands of market values.

Whether there should be local, regional or national valuation, and how to deal

with the question of higher prices in London, is one of the issues to be left open for the consultation period. But the aim of the banding system, according to informed sources last night, is that people should pay roughly the same amount for the same services irrespective of area.

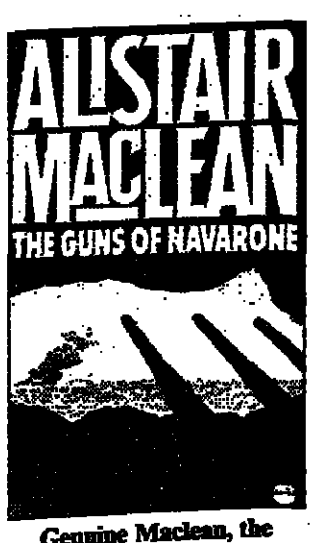
The cabinet decided in favour of capital valuation, rather than using rental values or the rebuilding costs of homes, although the latter two will remain as possible options in the consultation paper. Those on income support, and students, who currently pay only 20 per cent of the community charge, are expected to be exempted.

Ministers were reported confident that the new tax would be well-received. The delay in publishing the cabinet's decision, attacked last night by Labour, will enable the government to publish details next week showing how the new tax will apply to each local authority.

Leading article, page 15

Readers feel cheated by Maclean's apostrophe

By PHILIP HOWARD
LITERARY EDITOR



HARPERCOLLINS, as we tend to style the publishing house these days, is being taken to court today for giving artificial respiration to the literary goose that laid the golden eggs. Trading standards officials are taking the firm to court for publishing books that look to the unwary punter as though they have been written by Alistair Maclean, who died in 1987.

The case arises from a complaint by two Warwickshire readers, who bought *Death Train*, a paperback that looked to them as though it had been written by Maclean, author of *Where*

Eagles Dare and *The Guns of Navarone*. Alistair Maclean's name is written across the book face in the same type as for his own thrillers. The only little difference is that it is given a possessive apostrophe and s, viz. "Alistair Maclean's". This is a book in the Alistair Maclean series, and from an idea that may have been suggested by him. But it was in fact written by another thriller-writer with a similar Scottish-sounding name, Alistair MacNeill. His name also appears, well down page.

In 1977 Alistair Maclean was commissioned by an American film company to write a series of story outlines. *Night Watch*, a

Maclean skeleton filled out by MacNeill, was issued last year. The trading standards officers are charging HarperCollins for applying a false trade description. The preliminary hearing will be at Stratford upon Avon Magistrates' Court today.

The managing director of HarperCollins confirmed that his company would be in court today, but did not want to say any more. This is stirring stuff in the wacky world of publishing. But to be the true, the bluish Maclean heart-stopper, we should have power boats roaring off the Avon and figures in Balaklava helmets abseiling down the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre.

Significant Moments

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ALASTAIR MACNEILL
... and a posthumous version by MacNeill

Establishment outsider wins leading job at the Treasury



Sir Terence: keen sports supporter

By ANATOLE KALETSKY
AND RICHARD FORD

SIR Terence Burns, one of the non-establishment meritocrats who prospered under Margaret Thatcher's government, has been appointed to the top job at the Treasury.

Sir Terence, aged 47, is to become permanent secretary at the Treasury next month on the early retirement of Sir Peter Middleton, who is leaving to become a deputy chairman of the Barclays Group. At Barclays, Sir Peter will join Nigel Lawson, who is a non-executive director of the group.

The permanent secretary of the Treasury is traditionally considered the most powerful civil servant in Whitehall, although he technically

ranks below Sir Robin Butler, the cabinet secretary and head of the home civil service. Since Mrs Thatcher's departure, the permanent secretary's power is likely, if anything, to have grown even further because of Mr Major's greater willingness to rely on officials instead of political advisers, his consensual approach to government and the dominance of former Treasury ministers in the cabinet.

Sir Terence's influence will also be enhanced by his longstanding personal relationship with Mr Major. Sir Terence, a veteran of budgets by chancellors Howe, Lawson, Major and Lamont, is a close colleague of the prime minister having formed a good relationship with him during his two spells

at the Treasury as chief secretary and chancellor. He is a contemporary of the prime minister and, like Mr Major, is a keen sports fan.

Educated at Houghton-Le-Spring grammar school and Manchester university, where he got an honours degree in economics, Sir Terence has been a key adviser to a succession of Conservative chancellors since being brought into the civil service as the government's chief economic adviser in 1980. Before joining the public service he held research posts at the London Business School and became the head of the LBS Centre for Economic Forecasting in 1976. Sir Terence turned the LBS into one of Britain's leading economic forecasting institutions, as well as a hot-

house for the monetarist revolution in economic thinking that culminated in Mrs Thatcher's election victory in 1979.

When Sir Terence first took command of the government economic service 11 years ago, his appointment was widely perceived as a political one, although formally it was not. Although Sir Terence had no previous contact with the Conservative party or any of its research offshoots, he came from outside the academic establishment of predominantly Keynesian economists from which chief economic advisers had traditionally been drawn. Both his forecasts and his policy prescriptions from the LBS economics unit reflected monetarist views that were at the time

extremely controversial, not only among politicians but also in the economic establishment.

Since his arrival at the Treasury, Sir Terence is agreed to have integrated well into the civil service ethos and there were no complaints about his appointment yesterday, either from Treasury officials, civil service unions or even from the Labour party. A spokesman for John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, said Mr Smith had been told in advance of Sir Terence's appointment and was satisfied he could work with the new permanent secretary if he became Chancellor.

Sir Peter leaves in May but must wait six months before he can take up his job as deputy chairman of the Barclays Group.



Sir Peter: to join Nigel Lawson at Barclays

Baker sets up assets fund to fight drugs

By STEWART TINDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ASSETS seized in international drug trafficking investigations are to be channelled into a new government fund for fighting drug misuse at home and abroad, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, told a national police drugs conference yesterday.

The assets will come from investigations by British detectives or customs officers working in international operations. Assets seized in domestic cases will not be paid into the fund, which will be used for projects ranging from enforcement to education.

Addressing a conference organised by the Association

of Chief Police Officers, Mr Baker said: "Drug misuse is one of the most serious problems this country faces and the stakes are high. Just as the methods employed by traffickers change and develop so we must always be ready to look at ways to improve the effectiveness of our response."

He said confiscation of assets was a key weapon which had led in Britain to the confiscation last year of more than £10 million and the freezing of assets worth a further £30 million.

Due to start in April 1992, the fund will go some way to meeting the demands of police officers who have repeatedly urged the government to plough back cash seizures from drug investigations directly into drug work. In the United States, the budget of the Drug Enforcement Agency is now met completely by confiscated assets.

Yesterday, Brian Johnson, Chief Constable of Lancashire and vice-president of the association, welcomed the fund, which he thought might be worth £5 million or more. Police, he said, needed much more sophisticated equipment.

The fund will be financed through 20 bilateral agreements Britain has forged in the past few years with other countries on drug investigations. Britain might be awarded a proportion of assets seized in a multi-national case on the basis of the work and cost. Last year customs officials were given \$3 million for work in an American investigation on money laundering. Scotland Yard is negotiating with the Americans for \$3 million for another case.

American legislation requires recipients to spend any rewards directly on drug work.

Mr Baker said that the \$3 million awarded to customs would form the basis of the new fund and he defended the decision not to include domestic confiscations. He said that this money would continue to go to central funds and said that about £450 million a year would be committed by the government to drug problems.

Money offered by other countries has previously been taken by the Treasury.

Narcotics abuse main Aids cause

By OUR CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DRUG abuse has become the single largest cause of the spread of Aids in Europe, a national police drugs conference at Preston was told yesterday.

Raymond Brettle, consultant physician at the regional infectious diseases unit at the City Hospital, Edinburgh, said that World Health Organisation figures for 1990 showed the first time intravenous drug use as the main cause of the spread of the disease throughout Europe. Figures showed that 40 per cent of Aids sufferers were drug users and 30 per cent were homosexuals. Other sufferers were infected through factors such as blood transfusions.

The doctor, speaking to a conference organised by the Association of Chief Police Officers, said the main area for Aids infection was now Italy and Spain, where 60 per cent to 80 per cent of those infected were drug abusers.

The European picture was not mirrored across the United Kingdom, where 80 per cent of the reported 4,200 Aids cases were homosexuals. In Scotland, however, 31 per cent of Aids patients were drug abusers, and he highlighted the rise in HIV infection in Edinburgh.



Crime Patten: John Patten, home office minister, with Beverley Thompson (left), assistant director at Nacro, and the Labour MP Jo Richardson at a crime against women conference in Hammersmith, London, yesterday

Faith in the school for 'hard nuts'

By QUENTIN COWDRI, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE teenager's verdict on the government-backed Crime Prevention Week, now drawing to a close, was decisive: "That ain't going to stop anything. If they've got £4.5 million to spend on fighting crime, why don't they put it into clearing up the dump of a neighbourhood I was brought up in."

Mevin Evans knows a bit about offending. A self-confessed criminal with convictions ranging from fraud to theft and robbery, he is not 20,

yet has already done two spells "inside". Now, however, he thinks he has a good chance of keeping on the right side of the law.

He is optimistic not because homes are becoming more difficult to burglar and old ladies less vulnerable to mugging, but because his attitudes changed when he went to Sherborne House, in Bermondsey, south London, on an intensive probation scheme run by the Inner London Probation Service.

"Hard nuts" are Sherborne House's stock-in-trade. The scheme's purpose is to provide courts with an alternative to jail when sentencing heavily-convicted young offenders.

Research suggests that such projects, and their numbers are growing, can curb re-offending better than prisons and at a fraction of the cost. Sixty-eight per cent of Sherborne House's clients are likely to be reconvicted within two years of joining the project. The figure seems high,

but if the youngsters were jailed the reconviction rate would be 86 per cent; and the statistics take no account of the number of offences hardened delinquents commit.

Staff at Sherborne House believe it is vital that young offenders recognise that criminality is not inevitable. Offenders attend four and half days a week for ten weeks. They have group sessions on the motives for and effects of crime, and do handicrafts, sport, music and photography.

Unemployment statistics

Changes great and small fuel figures dispute

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FROM the earliest months of Margaret Thatcher's first administration there has been argument over whether the true level of unemployment has been disguised by changes in way the figures are collected and calculated.

The government and opposition also disagree on how many changes have been introduced during 12 years of Conservative rule. The employment department says that there have been only nine significant changes. Labour says 30 and the Unemployment Unit, an independent pressure group, suggests a similar number.

However, John Lawlor, employment department statistician, said that there had been extra minor changes, resulting from alterations in the rules or for statistical reasons, but he believes the effect on unemployment figures has not been significant.

David Taylor, an economist and statistician with the Unemployment Unit, said: "All the changes mean that the monthly unemployment count is not a reliable indicator to the month by month changes in the labour market or of the true level of unemployment."

Mr Lawlor said the key changes began in October 1979, when fortnightly attendance at unemployment offices was introduced for administrative reasons, adding 20,000 to the out of work figures. This is a figure with which the unit agrees.

In November 1981, a higher long-term rate of supplementary benefit was introduced for men over 60 who had been on the benefit for more than a year. The men were no longer required to sign on as available for work in order to receive the benefit. In the next 12 months this removed an estimated 37,000 men from the figures although the Unemployment Unit says the figure was only 30,000. In 1982, the basis of the monthly

unemployment statistics was altered. Instead of being derived from the number registered at job centres, the figures were based on the number of claimants at unemployment benefit offices.

The department says that the change reduced the count by 190,000 but the unit says the figure is nearer 216,000. Dr Taylor said: "The system

changed from a count of people registered for work at job centres to a count of unemployed people who claimed benefit. People had to be eligible for benefit to be counted as unemployed so any change to the benefit system could also effect the unemployment figures."

Changes in the 1983 Budget allowed men, mostly over 60,

to receive social security entitlements without national insurance credits or attending an unemployment benefit office. About 162,000 men no longer appeared in the unemployment figures.

In July 1985, action to correct discrepancies between the Department of Health and Social Security's records and the Department of Economic Development's computer in Northern Ireland reduced the figures by 5,000. The unit agrees with that estimate.

In 1986 the compilation of figures was delayed by two weeks to take place three weeks rather than one after the date specified for a count. The change, on statistical grounds, was to remove an over-recording of 50,000 people who had ceased to be unemployed before the count date.

In September 1988, a change in benefit entitlements for 16 and 17-year-olds removed the need for them to sign on as unemployed to receive benefits resulting in 90,000 under-18s being removed from the unemployment total. The unit says the figure is 120,000. Almost a

year later the regulations of the Redundant Mineworkers Payment Scheme were changed, allowing many men covered by the scheme no longer to sign on as unemployed. About 15,500 left the count as a result of the change although the unit says it was as high as 26,000.

However, the Unemployment Unit also claims that other changes have had a significant effect on the figures. It says that the abolition of part-rate unemployment benefit in 1986 removed 30,000 from the figures, then a further 300,000 after the introduction in the same year of tougher restart and availability for work tests, 38,000 when unemployment benefit contributions were toughened in 1988, and 30,000 when some 55 to 60-year-olds were paid pensions instead of benefits.

Another 80,000 went through changes in 1989 that required claimants to prove they had looked for work, alterations in the way earnings affected the right to benefit and a rule that low wage levels were no longer a good reason for refusing a job.

Employment department agrees change in counting methods after unemployment figures. Department figures in brackets. Source: The Unemployment Unit

Changes in unemployment counting methods since 1979	
Change	Estimated alteration
1979	
Benefit payments made fortnightly	+20,000
Downwards adjustment to seasonal total	-20,000
1981	
First estimate of effect of removing people in training or temporary work	-485,000
Seasonal figures adjusted to offset DHSS strike effect	-20,000
Unemployed men 60+ removed	-30,000 (-37,000)
1982	
Unemployment benefit taxed; single parents shifted to supplementary benefit	No estimate
Only benefit claimants counted	-218,000 (-190,000)
Part-time job hunters eliminated	No estimate
1983	
Men, 60+ and not entitled to benefit no longer required to register to get NI cards	-107,000
All men 60+ allowed long term supplementary benefit	-54,000
School leavers barred from benefit for one to three months	-200,000
1984	
Community programme rules changed	-23,000
1985	
Northern Ireland DHSS records merged into DHSS files	-5,000
UB paid in arrears	No estimate
1986	
Two week delay introduced into announcement of statistics	-50,000
New method of calculating unemployment %	-1.4%
Abolition of part-rate unemployment benefit	-30,000
Voluntary unemployment disqualification extended to 13 weeks	-4,000
Restart and availability for work tests toughened	-300,000
1988	
Voluntary unemployment disqualification extended to 26 weeks	-12,000
Definition of part-time work toughened	No estimate
New denominator used to calculate % unemployment	No estimate
16 and 17 year olds barred from benefit	120,000 (-90,000)
Unemployment benefit contributions tests toughened	-38,000
Some 55-60 year olds paid pensions instead of benefits	-30,000
1989	
Ex-miners not required to register	-28,000 (-15,500)
Claimants required to prove they are looking for work	-25,000
Low wage levels no longer good reason for refusing a job	-25,000
Tightening of regulations to qualify for benefit	-350
Change to the way earnings affect right to benefit	-30,000

Halifax mortgage rate cut by 0.8%

BY LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

THE Halifax Building Society cut its mortgage rate by 0.8 per cent to 12.95 per cent yesterday for its 1.8 million borrowers.

The rate applies immediately to new homebuyers and from May 1 for existing borrowers. The company, Britain's largest building society, also increased its first time buyer discount to 1.5 per cent. Lloyds Bank will reduce its mortgage rate by 1.1 per cent to 12.95 per cent for all borrowers from May 17. Its discount for first time buyers remains at 1.75 per cent.

The third largest building society, the Woolwich, cut its rate by 0.85 per cent to give a new rate of 12.9 per cent immediately for new borrowers and from May 1 for existing borrowers.

The Halifax reduction will cut a £50,000 endowment mortgage by £35 a month. The payments for the 1.2 million borrowers on the society's annual review scheme will not change until next April. These were set at 14.5 per cent in February and will not be changed during the course of the year unless the mortgage rate falls to 11.5 per cent.

The first time buyer discount lasts for one year from completion, giving a mortgage rate of 11.45 per cent. Loans over £50,000 will cost 12.15 per cent and those over £100,000 will be 11.95 per cent.

First time buyers cannot also benefit from the cheaper rates for large loans. Halifax borrowers who take out a new loan with the society will qualify for a 1 per cent discount and free valuation.

Will bars claims by test-tube children

A Midlands businessman has become the first sperm donor to bar his test-tube children from making a claim on his estate (Alice Thomson writes).

The 49-year-old donor has added a provision to his will after volunteering to become an artificial insemination donor at Little Aston Hospital, Sutton Coldfield. It specifies that his estate is to go only to his legitimate children. The man fears that new laws aimed at centralising records of the natural fathers of children could lead to him being traced in the future.

His codicil creates a legal precedent. Under current legislation prospective parents are given only basic physical details of donors but from the summer the names and national insurance numbers of a test-tube child's parents and donor father will be kept on record for 70 years.

Gun raid at 15

A masked robber who threatened staff at a sub-post office in Wrexham, North Wales, with a loaded sawn-off shotgun was later found to be a boy aged 15. At Mold crown court yesterday, he and his two accomplices, another boy aged 15 and a youth of 18, received youth detention sentences for robbery and firearms offences. The youth and one of the boys received four-year sentences and the other boy three years.

Murder enquiry

Detectives began a murder enquiry last night after the bodies of a woman and two children were found in a flat at Islington, Liverpool. Police said that a patrol car was attacked by youths as it arrived at the scene in response to a 999 call. The youths threw bricks at the car, smashing the windscreen. One officer said: "It's so frustrating. We're here trying to do our job and this is the treatment we get."

Drugs denial

Patricia Cahill did not know the suitcase she was carrying when she was arrested last July contained 60lbs of heroin, her lawyer told a Bangkok court yesterday. Miss Cahill, aged 17, who denies drug trafficking, said that she was given the suitcase by a Thai of Chinese extraction at an hotel in the city. Police said they arrested a Thai man last month suspected of supplying the heroin.

CORRECTION

Quarry Dougal, the recruitment consultants, receive a large number of instructions from firms to advertise more senior posts, contrary to the impression given in a report on law firms and the recession published in *The Times* on March 30.

Small Text: The Times receives a very large number of letters from readers. We are sorry that we cannot publish all of them. We are particularly sorry that we cannot publish all of the letters which are sent to us by our readers. We are sorry that we cannot publish all of the letters which are sent to us by our readers. We are sorry that we cannot publish all of the letters which are sent to us by our readers.

MORTGAGE RATE

With effect from close of business on 1 May 1991 House Mortgage Rate will be decreased from 13.85% to 12.85% per annum for all existing borrowers. The new rate is effective immediately for new borrowers.



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Women forced to quit work at 60 win compensation

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SIX women pensioners, all former employees of British Gas, yesterday won their long-running legal fight to be compensated for being forced to retire from their jobs at 60.

The outcome of their case, which began in October 1986 when an industrial tribunal dismissed their complaint of unlawful sex discrimination, clears the way for similar actions by several hundred other women who were forced to retire early. The case went to the European Court of Justice for a ruling on the law before finally returning yesterday to the House of Lords for judgment.

The law lords unanimously

held that British Gas plc — successor to the British Gas Corporation, a nationalised industry when the women retired — is liable to compensate the women under EC law and sent the case back to the tribunal for compensation to be assessed. The six, all compulsorily retired between December 1985 and July 1986, were backed by the National and Local Government Officers' Association.

Yesterday, Lord Templeman said that the 1986 Sex Discrimination Act, which came into force in November 1987, made different retirement ages for men and women unlawful. Before

that, public but not private-sector employees could rely on a 1976 directive of the European court guaranteeing equal treatment for men and women in their working conditions and with regard to dismissal.

The question in the present case was whether the British Gas Corporation was a "body made responsible for providing a public service under the control of the state". The women's claims were dismissed first by the industrial tribunal, then by the Employment Appeal Tribunal and the Court of Appeal on the ground that the British Gas Corporation was a statutory corporation engaged in commercial activities and not an agent of the state.

However, in its preliminary ruling in the case, the European court (to which the case was referred by the law lords) clearly provided that nationalised industries carrying out commercial functions were to be regarded as "organs of the state". Lord Templeman said yesterday. Applying the plain words of the European court ruling, he said the corporation was a body against which the provisions of the equal treatment directive could be enforced.

The women who brought the appeal were: Mrs M Foster, of New Addington, Surrey; Mrs G Fulford-Brown, of Upper Norwood, southeast London; Mrs J Morgan, of Oxton, Birkenhead; Mrs M Roby, of Rainford, Lancashire; Mrs E Salloway, of Reading, Berkshire; and Mrs P Sullivan, of Grange, Cardiff.

Law Report, page 30

Sex bias upsets golf club grants

TOP Irish golf clubs face the loss of EC grants because they discriminate against women.

Bord Failte, the state-backed tourist body which allocates the grants, worth up to IR£300,000, has drawn up conditions on sexual bias that most of the 30 clubs seeking money are unable to meet. Women golfers have traditionally had no voting rights in their clubs and most clubs will not allow them to be full members.

The tourist authority has stipulated that the clubs must provide "full and equal treatment for men and women members" if they are to qualify for grants for the improvement of facilities. The rules were drawn up after

protests from the Dail and Senate joint committee on women's rights and other groups. A spokesman said: "Based on the new conditions the vast majority of applicants will disqualify themselves."

The move was welcomed by Monica Barnes, the Dail deputy who heads the committee. "Perhaps money will talk where justice and fair play did not until now," she said.

Peter Coleman secretary of Tralee golf club in Co Kerry, said: "There are problems for us if this issue is not resolved." He added that lady members had been informed that if they wanted full membership it would be looked at favourably, but the matter was not pursued.



One of the boys: Susan Gibbins, the air stewardess whose bravery led to her receiving a unique award yesterday

Stewardess braves a male bastion

By LOUISE HIDALGO

AN unlikely victory in the battle of the sexes was recorded yesterday when Susan Gibbins, an air stewardess, won the title Man of the Year 1990.

Mrs Gibbins, aged 33, was one of the crew that helped to save Captain Tim Lancaster, the British Airways pilot almost sucked from his plane when the cockpit window blew out in June 1990.

Her four male colleagues received their award last

November while Mrs Gibbins was on honeymoon. She had to wait to yesterday to join the all-male sanctum.

At the Man of the Year dinner at the Savoy hotel, London, an organiser said: "It would have been inconceivable not to have honoured her bravery in the same terms as her colleagues." However, he emphasized that the 360th "man" of the year would not be setting a precedent.



Captain Lancaster, who suffered a close escape

BR cash shortage delays new station

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS for a multi-million pound international station at Ashford, Kent, have been approved by the Treasury but will have to be delayed because of British Rail's funding difficulties.

Ashford International, which was costed at £12 million and is now estimated at £140 million, was widely seen as the government's *quid pro quo* to Kent residents for the upheaval caused by building the Channel tunnel rail link. Work on the station, which includes property developments, a conference centre and customs and immigration facilities, has to start immediately if it is to be ready when the tunnel opens in 1993.

Because of falling income from property sales and passenger fares, and big increases in spending on safety, the government has been forced to increase British Rail's borrowing requirement by £300 million to £1,016 million for 1990-1. The increase is, however, not enough to cover the rising costs of the station.

Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, is negotiating with Sir Bob Reid, British Rail chairman, details of railway funding requirements for 1991-2. However, with current borrowing approaching the statutory limit of £1.1 billion, room for manoeuvre is restricted.

Tony Hart, leader of Kent county council, said: "The station project has been the main reason for support from the council for the Channel tunnel as it provides a valuable return for all the upheaval suffered in Kent." Any delay was totally unacceptable to the local electorate, he added.

Cathedral prepares for Carey's enthronement

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Princess of Wales and Princess Margaret will be among the 2,200 guests at the enthronement of Dr George Carey as Archbishop of Canterbury today.

Yesterday, Canterbury cathedral was thronged by police and security staff as well as flower arrangements displaying more than 1,000 white lilies, carnations, chrysanthemums and gladioli. Bishops and archbishops from around the world, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Buddhists will attend the event and tickets have proved scarce. Many who would like to be there have been frustrated.

Dr Leslie Griffiths, superintendent of the West London Mission, said: "I don't have any right to expect tickets but I have good contacts. No one could work any miracles for me. The tickets were like gold." The Dean of Canterbury, the Very Rev John Simpson, said: "Canterbury is actually a very small cathedral. This is something a lot of people do not appreciate."



Carey, described today as "a man of vision"

Mr Simpson added: "I think symbolic occasions like this have an immense significance for most people, whether church people or not. What will happen is comparable to a coronation in this country."

The enthronement is on the feast day of St Alphege, one of the three great saints of Canterbury. St Alphege was martyred by the Danes at Greenwich on a mission of reconciliation for King Ethelred II in the 11th century. Dr Nigel Ramsay, research editor of *The History of Canterbury Cathedral*, said: "It is a choice for Dr Carey's enthronement is one indication of the traditions that will be drawn on in today's service."

The service combines elements used since the 12th century and will contain two enthronements. The first, in the choir throne, symbolises Dr Carey's taking up of his responsibilities as bishop of the diocese of Canterbury.

The second, in the chair of St Augustine, declares the archbishop to be primate and metropolitan, as well as president of the worldwide Anglican community. A new element to the service will be the "giving of the peace" by the congregation. The ceremony will begin with a procession at 2.15pm, and the 90-minute service will start at 3.00.

The primate of all Ireland, Dr Robert Eames, pays a personal tribute to Dr Carey in a Church of England newspaper today. "He is a man of vision who has a vision of what he wants the Church of England and the Anglican Communion to do and to be. I hope and pray that he will have the strength to carry it through," Dr Eames, Archbishop of Armagh, says.

Diary, page 14
Letters, page 15
Carey opponent, page 18

MPs back nurse prescriptions

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MOST MPs believe nurses should be allowed to prescribe a limited number of drugs and dressings, according to a poll of 100 MPs published yesterday by the Royal College of Nursing.

Ninety-seven MPs backed nurse prescribing and eighty-seven said that parliamentary time should be made available for legislation to be introduced.

The poll coincides with the publication of a private member's bill introduced by Dudley Fishburn, a Tory MP. The bill, which has its second reading next month, calls for amendments in the Medicines Act 1968 and the National

Health Service Act 1977 to enable appropriately trained nurses to prescribe. Launching the bill yesterday Mr Fishburn said it was a way to "kick the government" towards nurse prescribing, which was supported two years ago by Virginia Bottomley, the health minister. The move would reduce bureaucracy and save nurses and GPs time and energy, he said.

The health department said yesterday that it was awaiting details of an independent cost analysis before considering whether to go ahead with legislation. Interim results would not be available until spring 1992.

Irish party's line seen as small beer

By ALAN HAMILTON

THERE will be only one word to describe the reaction of the world when it learns that a new political party has been formed in Ireland dedicated to reducing the number of that country's pubs. Gobsnacked.

At the launch of the Irish Christian Democrats at a Dublin hotel on Wednesday, the party's founder, Emmanuel Sweeney, said that it would demand a public enquiry into why it was necessary for a population of only 3.5 million to be served by 11,000 public houses. Mr Sweeney, who has recently returned to Ireland from America, had clearly forgotten Yeats's distillation of the essence of Irishness as the boldness of monks, and porter drinkers' ready laughter.

"Ireland sober has a great future," Mr

Sweeney told journalists attending the birth of his new movement. "Irish people must learn to be intellectuals outside the confines of a public house. Why is the Irishman always seen with a pint in his hand, rather than a book?" The Irish Christian Democrats also want to reduce the number of MPs in the Dail from 166 to 100, to improve efficiency. By yesterday, no leading political figure had joined the party.

Party leaders have not yet decided whether to contest the Irish general elections in June. A fund-raising drive has begun, and long-term objectives include the establishment of Irish embassies in Scotland and Wales.

Informed opinion in Dublin has dismissed the Democrats as right-wing lunatics, and has pointed out that many Irishmen with pints in their hands had written literature of world class. At the

Guinness brewery in Dublin, a spokesman reacted indignantly to Mr Sweeney's suggestion that the land of saints was really a land of drunks. "The number of pubs does not present an accurate picture of our lifestyle. Many are small, hundreds have only a seasonal summer trade, and a lot of them are really grocers' shops."

Ireland consumes 700 million pints of beer a year, half of that stout. Yet the country is a sober 26th in the world drinking league, consuming only 6.1 litres of alcohol a head per year, less than the United Kingdom's 7.4 litres, and far behind the 14.3 litres of the world champions, Luxembourg.

Mr Sweeney's party also intends to take a firm stand against proposals by Charles Haughey's Fianna Fail government to liberalise Ireland's family planning legislation.

Screenings fail to pick up heart conditions in babies

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MANY babies are born with an incurable heart condition because of failures to detect it during routine pregnancy screening, according to studies published by specialists today.

Most of the babies die within a week of birth and only a few have a chance of being saved by a heart transplant because of the shortage of infant donors, the doctors say in *The Lancet*. The deaths could be avoided if better ultrasound screening methods were used more widely and carefully, because most mothers would opt to terminate the pregnancy once the condition was diagnosed.

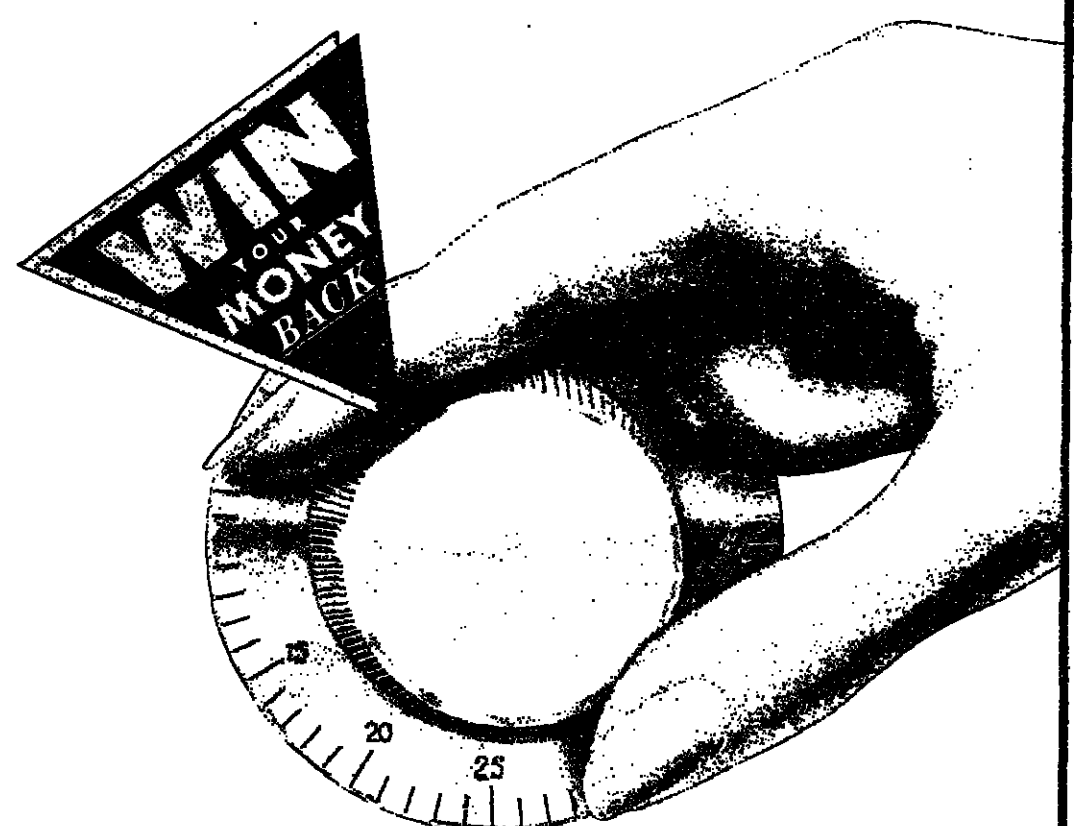
The babies suffer from hypoplastic left heart syndrome, the defect that led to an unsuccessful heart transplant operation on Christy Strachan, aged 11 days, at the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, London, last December.

The condition means that the heart's main pumping chamber cannot provide an adequate blood supply to the body. About 120 such infants are born in Britain every year, but most of the 23 babies referred to Great Ormond Street with the syndrome in the last three years had not been diagnosed prenatally, according to Lindsey Allan and colleagues.

"The main reason appears to be the lack of a nationwide programme of foetal ultrasound scanning" and variations in the quality of equipment and expertise in scanning. Dr Allen, a paediatric cardiologist at Guy's Hospital, London, says in *The Lancet*. A study of 105 babies in whom the syndrome was diagnosed before birth shows that 72 mothers chose abortions after being advised of poor survival prospects. None of the other 33 babies survived.

Research into the effects of HIV infection in children is urgently needed to help protect them against the onset of Aids, Jacqueline Mok, a consultant paediatrician at the City Hospital, Edinburgh, says in the *British Medical Journal* today. One in four babies acquiring the virus from their mothers will develop Aids before their first birthday.

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Fears of poll tax effect recede as census day nears

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

HOUSEHOLDERS in some areas are refusing to co-operate with the 1991 census for fear that data collected by officials will be passed to poll-tax registration officers, it emerged yesterday.

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys said it had met some resistance to its distribution of the 12-page forms in London, Scunthorpe and Bath, but that the protests had been nothing like as bad as "they might have been". There have been reports of questionnaires being torn up

and of banners on some council estates exhorting residents not to complete forms this Sunday. Failure to do so can lead to a £400 fine.

"We have met problems in one or two areas, but the numbers of people involved are very small," a spokesman said. Protests appeared to have been organised by local anti-poll tax groups, he added. The office, aware that about 3.5 million people had still to pay any poll tax, expected the public to be slightly less co-operative than normal, even

though it was not allowed to divulge census data. The office says "enormous" care is taken to ensure that census information is accurate. "Every aspect of the operation, from the training of the enumerators through to the wording of the questions, is designed to reduce errors to the absolute minimum," a spokesman said. Officials are adamant about the value of delivering and collecting forms by hand. In a recent census in Canada, where questionnaires had to be returned by post, more than 2 per cent of the population is thought to have been missed. That compares with an estimated 0.5 per cent in the 1981 British census.

Some of the data collected is not so precise. In 1981, for example, 29 per cent of householders failed to answer correctly the question about how many rooms their homes had. The average error rate for all questions was 5 per cent, computed from findings of a "validation survey" several weeks after census day.

Letters, page 15

Countdown to May 2 elections: rocking the rural boat



Rural seat: Chris Patch, centre, and his rivals, Stanley Gush, left, and Ross Moon

Outsider forces a break with village tradition

By LIN JENKINS

POSTERS bearing the names of town council election candidates pepper the Devon village of Sidbury for the first time in 50 years.

Elections have always been unnecessary, the tradition being that two representatives are chosen locally and returned unopposed. Now, however, an outsider has had the temerity to stand.

Chris Patch, aged 34, a tree surgeon, lives less than three miles away, yet his two opponents, Ross Moon, a local hotelier, and Stanley Gush, a farmer, are capitalising on their status as village residents. Their campaign slogan reads: "Living in and caring for Sidbury."

The contest for seats on Sidmouth town council is causing much excitement among the 600 villagers, who live in a rural cliché of white and pink washed thatched cottages, narrow lanes and tea shoppes. Mr Patch says that he is cautious in his choice of public house and claims to have suffered verbal abuse.

He maintains that he is restoring the villagers' democratic right. "When my party, the Raving Loony Green Giants, wrote to say they would field a candidate they received a letter thanking them politely but saying they had enough people," he said. Mr Patch talks in terms of the gentry and the rest of us, painting an amusing parody of feudal Britain alive and well in Sidbury.

Margaret Huyshe, a former Sidmouth town council chairman who is retiring after 30 years as a councillor, during which she was never opposed, is apologetic about the usual lack of an election but puts it down to apathy. "If we only get two people coming forward then there is no need for an election. Mr Gush is currently on the council, but he was co-opted when his wife, a councillor, died, because nobody else volunteered."

Mrs Huyshe is cross at suggestions that seats have been passed on to friends and relatives as if they were possessions. "There simply has not been the interest. To judge by the fuss anyone would think it was done on the quiet, but it was simply a matter that nobody wanted to stand."

Since the town council's role is minor — merely advising the district council on planning matters, overseeing leisure amenities in the area and producing a guide book — it is hardly surprising that few people are interested. Lloyd Fike, aged 74, whose memory goes further back than most, said: "Councillors have always done a good job so there has been no need to challenge them. When they died or got too old it was simply a matter of finding someone prepared to take over."

Ross Moon, aged 36, finds the excitement over the break in history distracting. "Looking after the town is a serious matter and this is a serious contest," he said.

The returning of councillors unopposed is not uncommon on town or parish councils. At that level, party politics matters little and personal connections are all important. Almondsbury parish council,

in Avon, always found it hard to fill its complement of 13 seats, resorting last time to co-opting members. However, a change brought in fortune that has brought in £1,000 a day has stimulated interest. Almondsbury became the richest parish in the country when it sold five acres of allotment land to property developers for £3.2 million in 1989. Now it boasts floodlit tennis courts, an all-weather cricket pitch, a new parish hall and new playing fields.

On May 2 the 5,600 inhabitants of the parish's three villages of Almondsbury, Easter Compton and Hallen will choose from among 21 candidates, all standing without a political label, whose interest in local affairs has no doubt been quickened by the prospect of spending money.

Don Lippitt, council chairman, said: "Our annual budget used to be £8,500. When interest rates are in our favour that is now our weekly income. It is so thrilling to spend this money it is hardly surprising others want to join in."

Warrant for arrest of ex-MP

Magistrates yesterday issued a warrant for the arrest of a former MP who failed to turn up for a court hearing on alleged fraud charges.

John Ryman, aged 61, ex-Labour member for Blyth, Northumberland, was due to appear on bail for a remand hearing before Bath magistrates.

At an earlier hearing Ryman, whose address was given as the Garth Hotel, Gower Street, London, faced four charges alleging criminal deception totalling £133,938 and involving a 63-year-old Bath woman. The offences were said to have taken place between February 1988 and July 1989.

Ferries halted

B&I ferry services between Ireland and Britain were cancelled yesterday as staff went on strike over a redundancy package, part of an Irish government plan to sell off the shipping line to the Irish Continental Group.

Probation order

Jeffrey Dunkley, an unemployed teacher of Watford, Hertfordshire, who was cleared on Wednesday of murdering his parents, was put on probation for 18 months for shoplifting by the Central Criminal Court.

Current account

The South Western Electricity Board is to pay compensation after a power surge ruined hi-fi, refrigerators and televisions in 25 homes in Combe St Nicholas, Somerset.

Fast delivery

Joe Trayler, aged 70, of Long Eaton, near Nottingham, has become the owner of a Nissan Micra after offering the car company his stamp collection, valued at £5,500, as a swap.

Prickly problem stalks the moor

By PAUL WILKINSON

FORGET the great hell-hound of the Grimpen Mire or the phantom hairy hands of Dartmoor. The latest terror of the tere is the giant Himalayan porcupine.

Foot-long quills tipped with enough bacteria to turn a stab wound into a festering sore are the newest threat to man and beast abroad on the moors. However, though *hystrix africanus* can grow almost three feet long, it lacks drama. It is an intensely shy vegetarian, likely to run from humans.

What is threatened by this escaper from a private collection near Okehampton, Devon, is the local animal life, domestic and wild. Badgers are likely to find themselves ousted from their sets, as the porcupine seeks warm, dry lodgings.

Ann James, senior keeper of the small animals' section at London Zoo, said the giant Himalayan, also known as the crested porcupine, will attack only when cornered, but then it becomes a formidable opponent. It scuttles backwards at speed into its oppressor,

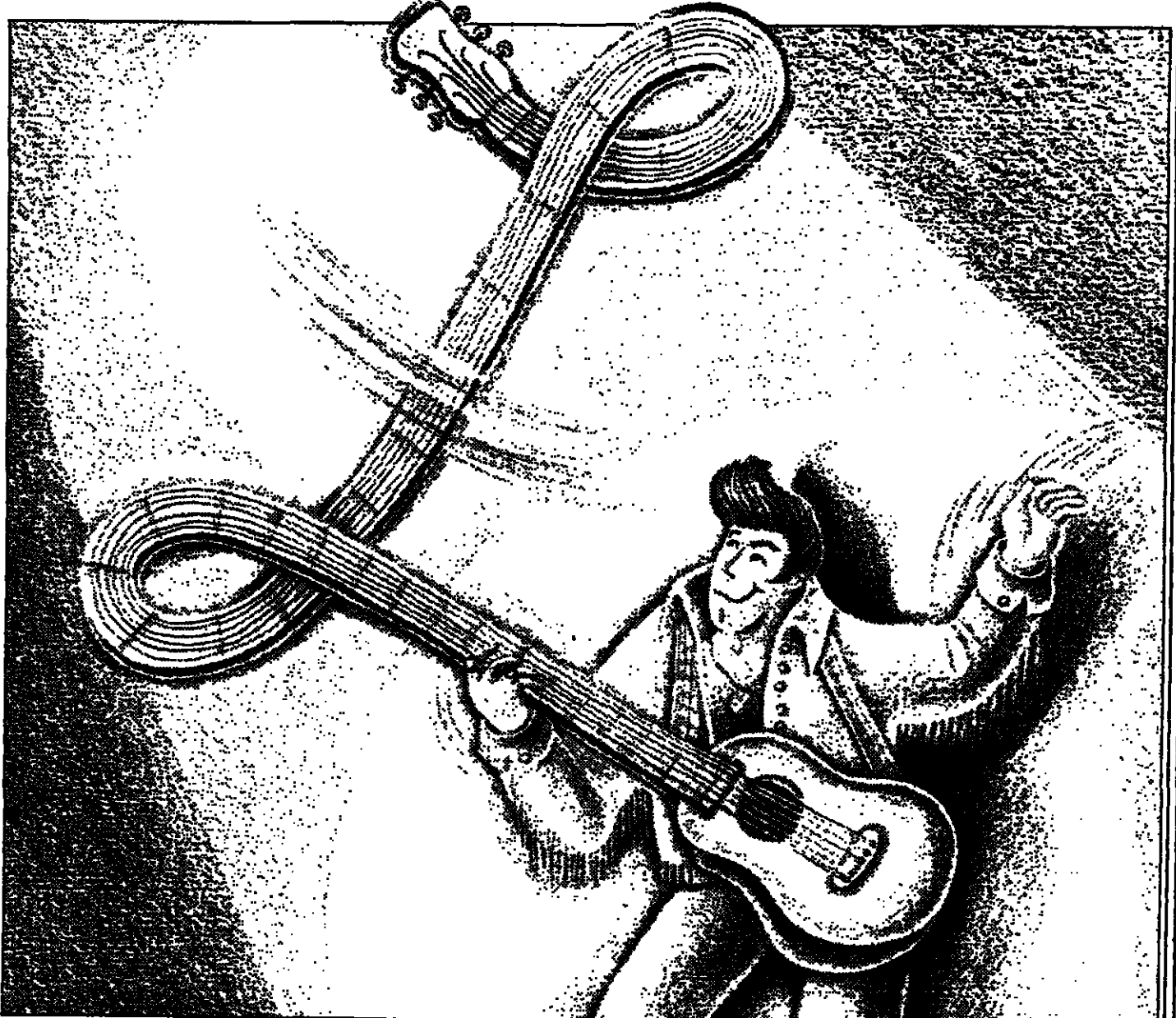


On the loose: the giant Himalayan porcupine delivering wounds up to an inch and a half deep in soft tissue.

A pair of the porcupines escaped from a Devon zoo more than 20 years ago and were never found. When one was reported killed by a car the scare subsided, resurfacing some years later with regular sightings of "giant hedgehogs".

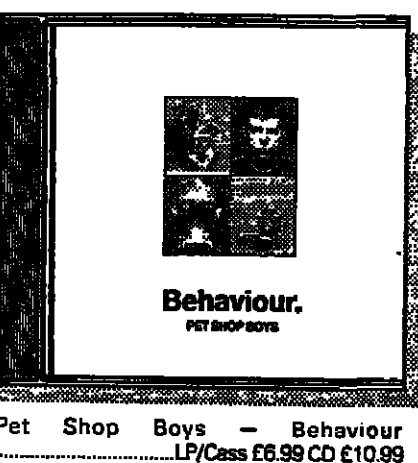
The agriculture ministry placed traps, capturing six animals, the last in 1979. Now it is compiling a register of sightings to see if a new campaign is necessary. Ministry policy is to eradicate alien species to protect indigenous ones and the ministry also fears that the porcupine's ability to vary its diet could affect arable farmers. "It will eat virtually anything," Miss James says.

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Peers vote to let judges set murder sentences

By PETER MULLIGAN AND JOHN WINDER

THE House of Lords delivered a severe rebuff to the government yesterday by voting overwhelmingly to scrap the mandatory life sentence for murder.

They voted to do so by 177 votes to 79, majority 98, despite a defence of the present system by Lord Waddington, leader of the House and former home secretary, who said that such a change would undermine public confidence in the judicial system.

Opposition to the government view was led by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, who dismissed as a serious miscalculation fears that abolition of the sentence would be a sign of weakness. "It is no weakness to replace what I suggest is a flawed system with one which at the very least offers an opportunity to achieve greater fairness and serve greater justice."

He was speaking in support of a new clause at committee stage of the Criminal Justice Bill which would allow judges to determine the length of sentences for murder.

Lord Lane criticised the present life sentence, telling peers that the length of time

spent in prison ranged between the very short, for so-called "mercy killings", to the very long, for such crimes as the deliberate killing of many people. He said: "The defendant knows, the public knows and everybody knows that what the judge is saying is true and it is a practical certainty that the defendant will not be spending the rest of his life in prison."

Lord Lane said that the trial judge was the best person to assess the sentence, having heard all the evidence in open court in the hearing of the defendant, the public and the press. "The great advantage of the change would be this: what is now decided by no doubt some admirable but anonymous person in the Home Office upon advice from a variety of sources, including the trial judge and the Lord Chief Justice, all of it in private, would be done openly and subject to appeal."

He made clear that the life sentences would be passed because of the heinousness of some crimes or the danger that might be presented to the public by a defendant if released. "In the great majority of cases, it will be a matter of applying the same sentencing principles as the judge applies in other cases of serious crime like rape, manslaughter or other cases where the maximum sentence is one of life imprisonment."

The possibility of appeal by the Crown was the new feature which perhaps removed one of the few objections — "and some would say, the only objection" — to the removal of the mandatory sentence.

Lord Nathan, who chaired a Lords select committee appointed in July 1988 to examine the issue, said that there had been concern for years about the mandatory life sentence introduced a generation ago in the context of the abolition of capital punishment. He said that it allowed the executive the effective power over sentencing, over how long the prisoner should remain in prison and whether he should be released on licence. Emphasising that those powers were exercised in secrecy, Lord Nathan said that the executive might have political reasons for reaching decisions on a particular prisoner.

Lady Platt of Writtle (C) defended the mandatory life sentence. Removing it would give all the wrong signals to the public.

Lord Richard, for the Opposition, agreed that it would be absurd and immoral not to consider the victim, but the organisations Victim Support and Parents of Murdered Children had both said they favoured ending the mandatory sentence. There were 3,503 people serving life sentences in Britain and only 2,688 in the rest of the EC.

Lord Waddington said that the government had to judge public reaction and had decided that such a change would be extremely damaging to confidence in the judicial system. In the long run, that would lead to pressure for people to be kept in prison longer than they now were. There would be continual allegations in the press that inadequate sentences were being passed by the courts.

The Earl of Longford (Lab) said that he should be concerned with justice rather than public reaction.

Lord Waddington said that it would be a sad day when, from their Olympian heights, peers decided that 10 years was an adequate punishment for murder. That would not equate with the views of any ordinary man. The public might believe that there would be, when the crime was wicked beyond belief, a penal term of 60 years, which would become 30 years in effect with the new parole system, but he did not know of a single instance where such a sentence had been imposed.



Signs of summer: Robert Key, inner cities minister (second right), with community representatives yesterday after laying the foundation stone for enterprise workshops on the Broadwater Farm estate in north London

Cook promises patients the right to choose

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

AS THE local government election campaign intensified, Labour promised yesterday a charter for National Health Service patients and the Liberal Democrats pledged that they would provide pre-school education for all three and four-year-olds and guarantee at least two days a week of education for 16 to 19-year-olds.

Labour is promising that all patients will have the right to choose in which hospital they are treated, the right to a second opinion and the right to be accompanied at all health interviews by a relative or chosen advocate.

At a press conference in London, the party's health spokesman, Robin Cook, said that women would have the right to consult a woman GP, parents would have the right to stay in hospitals overnight with their children and all patients would have the right of access to their medical records, although they could be withheld if there were serious medical grounds for doing so. In addition, there would be the right to individual appointment times for all consultations with an explanation of any delay above 30 minutes.

At a Westminster press

conference, Matthew Taylor, Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said: "If getting our children's education right means putting a penny on income tax, that is what we shall do. There is no greater priority."

The Liberal Democrats would scrap testing at the age of seven and support the total reform of A-levels to provide a modular post-16 system combining academic and vocational qualifications. A document, *Educating our Children Starting Today*, said that all children would be given a record of their achievement from the day they entered schooling to the day they left.

The party would reincorporate grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges into the local education authorities and oppose central government funding of schools. Schools would be encouraged to develop independence, however, with all local management decisions made by heads and senior staff with the governors.

Local education authorities would develop strategies to promote adult education. The document says: "For Liberal Democrats education is inevitably a lifelong experience."

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Atom test veterans must wait

British nuclear test veterans suffering from cancer were offered little hope of early compensation when the prime minister was questioned about their plight.

He told Terence Higgins, Tory MP for Worthing, who has campaigned on their behalf, that an independent study was being made. The government, John Major said, was willing to pay compensation if there was firm evidence that participation in the nuclear test programme had caused the cancer.

However, there were problems because there was a limited number of medical experts. None the less, he would do what he could to ensure that the report was completed as quickly as possible.

Standard car locks sought



The government is pressing EC member countries to adopt a common standard for car door locks, Christopher Chope (above), the roads and traffic minister, said in a written reply. The department, he added, was supporting moves towards international standards for car alarms. The government is also pressing manufacturers to improve car security.

VAT plea

The government rejected appeals from both sides of the Commons to relieve charities from the value-added tax increase.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:
Monday: Debate on a back-bench motion on the funeral industry.
Tuesday: Pensions bill, remaining stages.
Wednesday: Atomic Weapons Establishment bill, remaining stages.
Thursday: Natural Heritage (Scotland) bill, remaining stages.
Friday: Private members' bills, report stages.
The main business in the Lords is expected to be:

Monday and Tuesday: Criminal justice bill, committee, fourth and fifth days.
Wednesday: Debates on unemployment and on sport and active recreation.
Thursday: Child support bill, report.

Parliament today
Commons (9.30): Private members' bills. Children and young persons (protection from tobacco) bill and others.
Lords (11): Northern Ireland (emergency provisions) bill, second reading.

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Wouldn't a more persuasive approach have concentrated on the dramatically improved roadholding and handling, which stem from the perfect weight distribution and the multi-link rear suspension developed from our Z1 sports car?

Should we not have led with the increased interior space (especially in the back) due to a car which is four inches longer and three inches wider than its predecessor?

Aren't we being uncharacteristically coy about our new multi-valve six cylinder engines, particularly since we've boosted the power output of the 320i from 129bhp to 150, and the 325i from 170 to 192?

Haven't we missed a chance to go green in a big way, given that all engines are fitted with a closed loop 3-way catalytic converter as standard and thus run only on unleaded fuel?

Surely we're being fools to ourselves by not headlining with the five speed automatic gearbox, available on six cylinder models, which delivers almost the performance and economy of the manual and is otherwise unheard of in cars of this size?

And if any other manufacturer had improved driving safety by building a bodyshell that could absorb 36% more energy in a head-on collision than that demanded by the American Federal Register (the toughest legislator in the world) you'd expect a bit of noise about it.

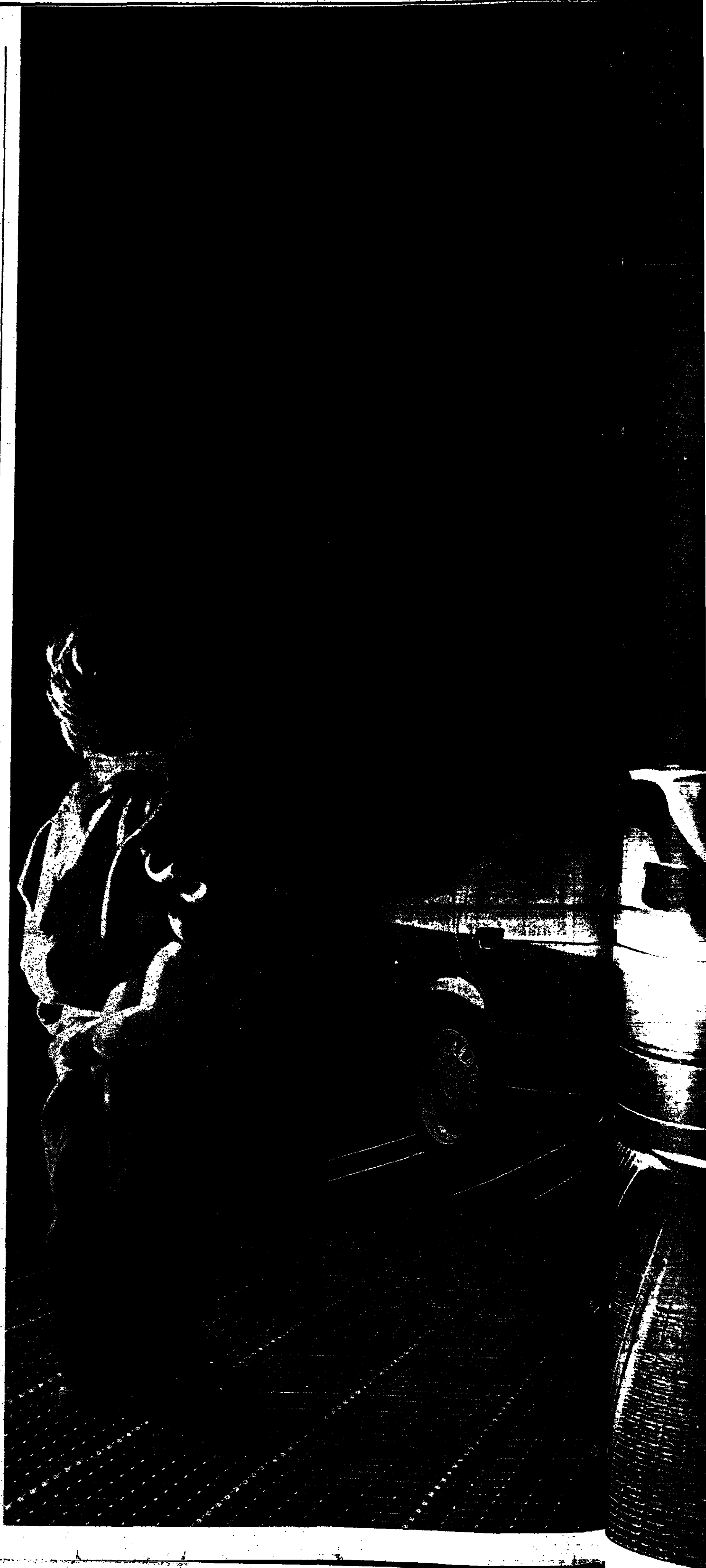
After all, are not all these things exactly what makes a car worth driving?

To which we answer: yes, but would you enjoy it quite so much if your children had to pay for it?



THE NEW BMW 3 SERIES.

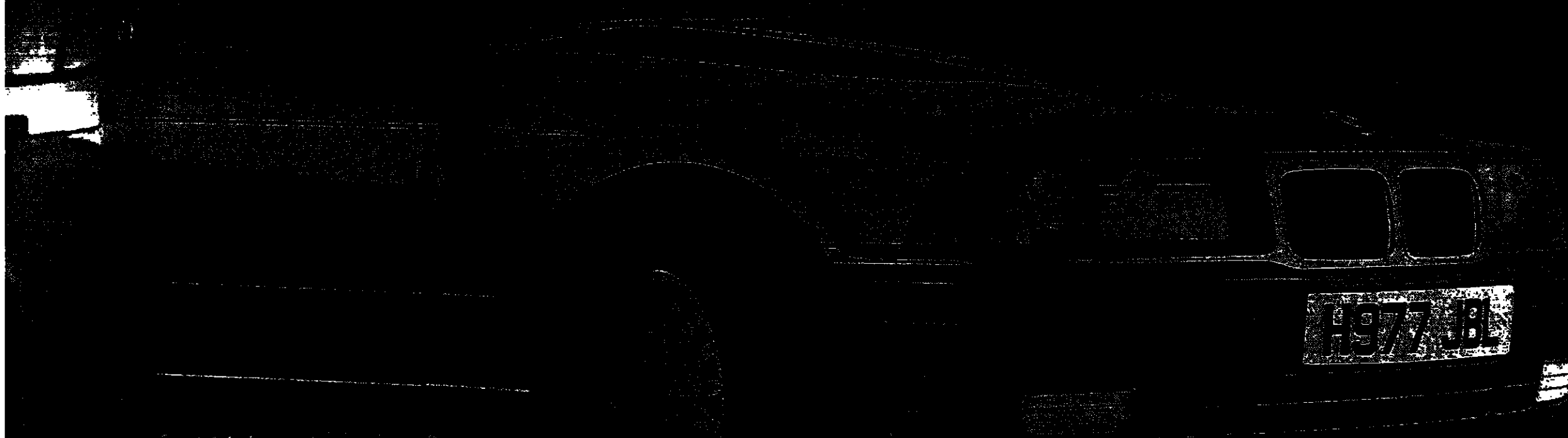
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SON OF MAN
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Gorbachev shift fails to prevent Tokyo talks flop

From JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

PRESIDENT Gorbachev opened over the three-day deadlock between himself and Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, yesterday by making the minuscule concession that the dispute over the Kurile islands would be considered at future talks.

The two held their final summit meeting late yesterday and went immediately into another room in the state guest house for a signing ceremony of 15 documents.

Talks focused on the dispute over the islands, seized by the Red Army in the closing days of the second world war but still claimed by Japan. It did not appear that Mr Gorbachev's concession was enough to gain what he really sought — long-term Japanese aid for the ailing Soviet economy.

An unofficial summary of

the communiqué said the two leaders "had detailed and extensive talks on all of the problems for drafting and concluding a peace treaty between the two countries, including the territorial demarcation, based on the positions of both sides over the ownership of the four islands."

The sides agreed that the peace treaty, including the resolution of the territorial problem, would be a final document to settle accounts from the second world war. The Soviet side proposed:

- Reduction of the Soviet military presence in the islands;
- The start of mutually profitable economic activity there;
- No visas for Japanese nationals visiting the islands;
- Increasing exchanges be-

tween the islanders and Japanese nationals.

The leaders agreed to accelerate preparations for the peace treaty. They declared a firm intent to work constructively and energetically to use positive elements accumulated in bilateral negotiations since their 1956 joint declaration, which ended hostilities and established relations. They promised to promote more exchanges in trade, economics, science and technology, politics, social affairs, culture, education, tourism and sport.

The Japanese government, normally considered among the world's most prevaricating negotiators, appears to have met its match with the Soviet Union this week in Tokyo's first Japanese-Soviet summit. As a finance ministry official put it: "Japan and the Soviet Union are still in the cold war era."

Japan aims for the re-affirmation of a 1956 joint declaration in which Moscow offered to return two of the islands and wants Soviet recognition of its sovereignty over the remaining two. The Supreme Soviet ratified the 1956 declaration but reneged on the offer.

Japanese business, whose patronage has been placed on the negotiating table by the government, has maintained a polite but cool distance from proceedings all week. Gaiishi Hiraiwa, the president of Keidanren, the leading Japanese business federation, scathingly dismissed the idea of Japanese investment, informing President Gorbachev bluntly that "the economic conditions and infrastructure in your country are inadequate."

● Wife "tired": Raisa Gorbacheva left her Japanese hosts disappointed when she said she was too tired to keep appointments at Tokyo city hall, a bulldozer factory and a park famous for its cherry blossom. She cancelled every appointment except a tree-planting ceremony with her husband. (Reuter).

Brief encounter with Soviet style

By JOANNA PITMAN

THE official blackout on news during the Japanese-Soviet negotiations has tested severely the abilities of both nations' press spokesmen. While Vitali Ignatenko, for the Kremlin, has been quite happy for his name to be made public, the Japanese foreign ministry spokesman is suffering from an attack of extreme shyness and refuses to reveal his identity.

Although both men are past masters at fobbing off reporters' unwanted questions, Mr Ignatenko at least does it with a little style. Referring to "the eye-to-eye at 5.45" between President Gorbachev and Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, the Kremlin spokesman made a crisp statement of the news blackout and told reporters that they should not expect anything more. "Please don't throw all your high-tech gadgets at me," he ventured, eyeing the array of

state-of-the-art word processors and tape recorders in use in front of him.

While neither man is exactly a bundle of laughs, Mr Ignatenko has won hands down on keeping the press mildly entertained. His upbeat delivery included a reference to Mr Gorbachev's breakfast meeting on Wednesday with the redoubtable woman leader of the opposition socialist party in Japan, Takako Doi.

The meeting was "of a personal character", Mr Ignatenko said with a broad grin, claiming that his boss would be most upset if he gave away any more.

Mr X at the Japanese foreign ministry, however, has taken three and sometimes four times as long to say just as little. While his ability to speak in English is laudable, his efforts at levity have fallen far short of his Soviet counterpart's.



Media ordeal: President Chamorro of Nicaragua, centre, facing press photographers with mock horror as she is being welcomed to the White House for a state dinner by President and Mrs Bush. During the dinner on Wednesday night,

Mr Bush teased Señora Chamorro for her work towards democratic and economic reforms in the year after she took office, and he criticised the Sandinista government of Daniel Ortega which Señora Chamorro replaced (Reuter reports from Washington).

"We honour her as the conciliator who is forging a future of peace and unity for her beleaguered land, as the elected leader who ended a bitter civil war and replaced a repressive and undemocratic regime," President Bush said. He spoke of his conviction that history will acclaim her as "the liberator of not only her country's government but also its heartbeat and spirit". Señora Chamorro is making her first state visit to Washington.

Albania expects Britain to renew ties

From TIM JUDAH IN TIRANA

MUHAMED Kaplani, the Albanian foreign minister, says he believes that the restoration of diplomatic ties with Britain, broken more than four decades ago, will take place "very soon", possibly in a matter of weeks.

In an interview in his office, which is still graced by a bust of Albania's late Stalinist dictator, Enver Hoxha, Mr Kaplani, aged 48, said that his country's isolation for the last 40 years had not been self-imposed. He added that because Albanians had fought the Ottoman Turks in the 15th century the rest of Europe still had an outstanding "debt" to repay.

Mr Kaplani, a former diplomat and university English teacher, said British and Albanian diplomats had recently been holding "long and intensive discussions" and were close to reaching a "compromise formula" over "pending questions".

Britain broke relations with Albania in 1946 after two Royal Navy vessels were mined in the Corfu channel, resulting in the death of 40 British sailors. Albania refused to accept responsibility, arguing that the mines were left over from the war, and it refused to pay compensation after the International Court found against it.

Aristocrats in Poland demand property back

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

POLAND's aristocratic landowners have launched a fierce attack against the government's plans for privatisation, arguing that the state was selling off land and property to which it had no title.

The government, under pressure from former industrialists as well as aristocrats, has offered privatisation vouchers as a form of compensation to those whose land was confiscated by the communists. This gesture would give the old ruling class a financial stake in the new Poland and allow privatisation to proceed. Other countries, such as Hungary, risk being entangled in long-winded disputes over property ownership that will slow down privatisation of the economy.

In a statement yesterday the Polish Landowners' Association refused to play along with the government offer. Count Jan Zamoyski demanded that "those plants and factories which are being mismanaged at present should be returned to us, at least in part. In return we would make between 20 and 25 per cent of the shares available to the employees."

In 1946 the communists nationalised all companies employing more than 50 workers and almost a million people lost property. Only a few received compensation. To allow this legislation to stand would, said the association, "be a violation of the basic human right to own property. Western states, seeing that Poland is legalising the past theft of private property, will be convinced that there is no rule of law and be afraid of investing."

Janusz Lewandowski, the minister for privatisation, is adamant. "You cannot turn history back," he said. To hand back confiscated property would upset the whole postwar legal code. To compensate in kind would destroy the budget. Above all, to test every ownership claim would take years, seriously dislocating the market reforms. So far 548 former mill-owners, 338 landowners, 228 owners of pharmacies, 149 workshop owners, 82 factory owners and seven owners of river barges have demanded compensation or return of property.

The dispute has exposed yet more friction between the chancellery of President Walesa and the government

which he installed last January. The president has been urging more generosity to the landless aristocrats and has even suggested that they be given back all their forests.

The former owner of the Wilanow Palace, Countess Anna Wolska-Branicka, has been received by the president, who promised to support her cause in claiming back at least part of the family home. But the industry minister, Andrzej Zawislak, believes the president's generosity to aristocrats and industrialists would run up a bill of millions of pounds.

The issue of ownership has to be settled without ambiguity before East Europe can be thoroughly privatised. The conservative Hungarian Democratic Forum, the main party in the coalition government there, is proposing to give expropriated owners first option to regain nationalised property, if they can provide evidence of title. That would entail lengthy legal searches.

Lajos Csepel, chief of the Hungarian state property agency, said last week: "That would be a disastrous step and would obviously slow down privatisation."

The Czechoslovak government will allow the return of property confiscated between February 25, 1948 — when the Communists seized power — and January 1990. The government reckons that about 10 per cent of all state-owned property will be returned as a result of the law.

Corrupt, caste-ridden and desperately poor, Bihar is the basket case of India. Yet this violent northern state is leading a social revolution, pitching the powerful Brahmins against lower castes in a unique class war.

Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, aged 71, is one of the most influential caste leaders in the state. Like tens of millions of Yadavs in India, he comes from a poor farming background. Today he is powerful enough to need 24-hour armed protection from political and caste rivals.

"Backward castes and Harijans (Untouchables) have suffered for centuries," he says. "This suffering must end. The Brahmins, Bhumiars and other forward castes must move aside. They have had their day. The revolution has begun."

The Yadavs of Bihar, most of them small-time milk producers, are turning the ancient caste hierarchy on its head. As the caste currently in political control of the state, it is pushing aside Brahmins who have dominated the upper ranks of the bureaucracy, police and public institutions. The process, which began last year, is called Mandalisation after the commission report a decade ago which proposed job reservations for backward

castes and Harijans. It was ignored until last autumn when Vishwanath Pratap Singh, then prime minister, resurrected it in a bid for the support of Harijans and backward castes like the Yadavs. The move gave the Bihar Yadavs confidence to fight their birth-given low status.

"The Yadavs are nearly 20 per cent of the population of Bihar," Mr Lakhan said, his bodyguards standing at a discreet distance. "Mandalisation is unstoppable. There are 150 million Yadavs in India. We are becoming educated, politically powerful and economically strong."

Brahmins constitute just 4 per cent of Bihar's population. Bhumiars 3 per cent, and high-caste Rajputs 5 per cent. Bihar accounts for almost 10 per cent of the 544 seats in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament.

In the May 20-26 general election Brahmins will vote solidly with the Congress (I) party, headed by Rajiv Gandhi, of Brahmin stock. The Yadavs will turn to the Janata Dal party of Vishwanath Pratap Singh. With the Harijans still cynical and confused, the good news for Mr Gandhi is that the Karmis, the biggest caste with 23 per cent of the electorate, have opted for Congress to spite the Yadavs.

Caste war sharpens Bihar campaign

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN PATNA, INDIA

CORRUPT, caste-ridden and desperately poor, Bihar is the basket case of India. Yet this violent northern state is leading a social revolution, pitching the powerful Brahmins against lower castes in a unique class war.

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Cholera spreads to Brazil and Chile

Rio de Janeiro — A cholera epidemic is spreading across South America, with Brazil and Chile becoming the latest countries to confirm cases. Colombia, Ecuador and Peru have already been affected, with Lima saying the death toll has exceeded 1,000 (Louise Byrne writes).

The disease has also been detected in Florida, where two residents who recently visited South America were feared to have contracted cholera. American health officials said.

The Brazilian authorities said they were preparing to register up to three million cases of cholera this year after the first cases were confirmed yesterday in the Amazonian border region with Colombia. Health experts said that a crumbling health care system and poor basic sanitation may lead to a rapid spread of the disease.

Since the epidemic broke out in January in Peru, 142,000 cases have been officially registered and 1,000 have died. Ecuador has since registered 486 cases and Colombia nearly 100. The Brazilian health ministry and the Pan-American Organisation of Health estimate that 2 per cent of Brazil's population of more than 155 million are likely to contract the illness as it spreads through Amazonia and into the coastal states.

The Brazilian government announced this week a \$3 million emergency sanitation programme in the states of Amazonas, Acre and Rondonia in western Amazonia.

Mandela denial

Johannesburg — Winnie Mandela denied that her minibus was used to ferry four youths whom South Africa claims were kidnapped from the Methodist church manse in Soweto to her home nearby. Cross-examined in the Rand supreme court here, she said she was on her way in the minibus to Bradford in the Orange Free State when the alleged kidnapping took place on December 29, 1988. (AFP)

Pacific attack

Sydney — Papua New Guinea has launched a big military operation to recapture Bougainville island, its copper-rich Pacific territory which has been held by secessionist rebels for over a year. In Port Moresby the government said 300 troops were on Bougainville with a further 800 waiting on adjoining Buka Island.

Crash pay-out

Ottawa — Courts approved the last of settlements totalling \$Can 50 million (\$25 million) in claims from the 1985 crash off Ireland of an Air India jet, flying from Canada to India, in which 329 passengers died. \$Can 18 million will be paid to 50 families.

Bullfight ban

Madrid — Regional authorities in the Canary Islands have outlawed bullfighting, making their archipelago the first part of Spain to deal a death blow to the national pastime. An animal protection law, passed by the Canaries regional parliament, reflects Spain's growing awareness of European opposition to the corrida.

Moscow hunts for heroes as Gagarin is remembered

From MARY DEBEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev has announced the establishment of a Soviet sports award in memory of Lev Yashin, the world-famous Soviet goalkeeper who died last year. Yashin is the first individual to be endowed with hero status since Mr Gorbachev took office. The Soviet leadership is now searching with some desperation for models for its young people.

The requirements are narrow. The heroes must not have been compromised by any previous Soviet regime. They must be morally upstanding. They must be world-famous, to show that their fame has not been created for propaganda purposes. Their qualities must also be acknowledged across the Soviet Union, not just by one republic or nationality.

But the key requirement is that new Soviet heroes must embody Soviet success when the mood is of dismal failure. Last week, on the 30th anniversary of manned space flight, the first man in space, the late Yuri Gagarin, was honoured to this cause.

The official Soviet media were crammed with commemorative items. President Gorbachev attended a ceremonial meeting in Moscow, the Kazakh president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, in whose republic the Baikonur launch-pad is sited, attended a festival which he addressed in Kazakh. A three-hour television documentary told of Gagarin's rise to fame and premature death.

The story of how he died in a mid-air collision had been kept secret from the Soviet public. A military officer, who disclosed how search parties had found no trace of Gagarin, said he did not know why the manner of his death had been concealed, but guessed it had to do either with sympathy for the family of the pilot who had collided with him, or with national prestige.

Soviet national prestige could do with a boost. The victory won by the US-led alliance in the Gulf war only added to a sense of inferiority towards the West that has penetrated every level of Soviet society.

Not only have an unprecedented number of Soviet citizens travelled to the West, but glasnost has brought Western

films and news dispatches into every living room. All of them depict a brighter, more prosperous but, above all, happier world than people see around them.

The Soviet press has emphasised the search for national prestige as a significant part of the desire to emigrate. "It is not just the opportunity to work with computers that makes me want to go to the United States," one would-be emigrant said, "but the opportunity to become a citizen of a country where everyone stands up at the first notes of the national anthem and where the national flag is flown in front of every house."

The television programme about Gagarin's space flight showed a roll call of Soviet and US astronauts in chronological order of their flight. All the Russians looked stern and dutiful. All the Americans were smiling broadly and the backdrop to each portrait was "Old Glory", the national flag.

Plauding her case: an old woman arguing with Soviet militiamen in Kiev as a strike by thousands of factory workers, called in support of the seven-week-old strike of Donbass miners, highlighted mounting industrial unrest in the Ukraine

state sent its citizens to shield the reactor with their own bodies and then cast them aside." However, Viktor Ponomarenko, the deputy health minister of the Ukraine, said: "We have a figure that 400 relief workers in the Ukraine have died. It could be radiation, it could be a car crash, it could be another sort of sickness."

Mr Shovkovskiy, whose organisation speaks for the relief workers, known as liquidators in the Soviet Union, drafted to repair the power station, said: "Official statistics in the years after the disaster were aimed at proving that radiation was safe

and that nothing had happened to endanger people's health. People feel betrayed. Many relief workers have not been provided with basic health care such as bandages and aspirin."

Most analysts believe that the worst is yet to come. Of the 70,000 children evacuated or who are still living in the most contaminated land, between 50 and 70 per cent have damaged immune systems, the cause of "Chernobyl Aids". Swelling of the thyroid glands has increased between 20 and 50 times.

New laws, passed by the Ukrainian supreme soviet

Milking statistics and cows in the shadow of Chernobyl

From ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

DEEP divisions are emerging between campaigners and Soviet officialdom over estimates of the number of deaths caused by the disaster at the Chernobyl power plant five years ago next week. While official statistics suggest hundreds of fatalities, unofficial figures put the eventual toll as high as tens of thousands.

The chairman of the Chernobyl Union relief organisation, Volodymyr Shovkovskiy, claimed: "One in every 100 relief workers, 6,000 in all, have died from the effects of radiation. The

state sent its citizens to shield the reactor with their own bodies and then cast them aside." However, Viktor Ponomarenko, the deputy health minister of the Ukraine, said: "We have a figure that 400 relief workers in the Ukraine have died. It could be radiation, it could be a car crash, it could be another sort of sickness."

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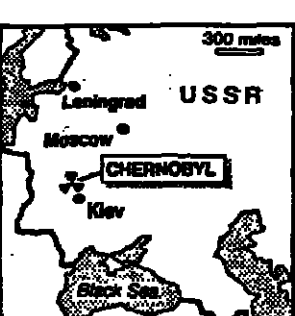
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New laws, passed by the Ukrainian supreme soviet

and enacted since April 1, are trying to redress the imbalance of the past four years. The official contamination area is being widened and an extra 73,000 people evacuated by the end of this year from the Ukraine and Belorussia, bringing the total to more than 250,000.

Natalya Savelyeva, the deputy head of the Chernobyl department at the Ukrainian health ministry, said: "The reason for increased evacuation this year are the more humane laws passed by the Ukraine. Before, we had to abide by Moscow-imposed instructions. We have now lowered



the permissible radiation safety level."

Despite the contamination, cows in the 10-km (18-mile) exclusion zone around the plant are still milked. The Ukrainian gov-

ernment insists the produce is checked before it reaches the consumer. Mrs Savelyeva said: "In some areas considered to be contaminated, the plants are cleaned and the cows produce clean milk. In areas where the plants are not clean, the cattle bred there are fed on clean products in the last six months of their lives."

Morten Andersen, the Greenpeace co-director in Kiev, disagreed: "I don't trust those checks. The Soviet government has still not admitted the full extent of the problem. It is incredible that those dairies are operating."

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Cholera spreads to Brazil and Chile

Allies build up armed strength as deterrent to Iraqi attack on havens



AS AMERICAN, British and French troops arrive in northern Iraq, the threat of Iraqi military interference in the new coalition operation cannot be ruled out. As John Major has said, it seems unlikely. But the senior military officers who met at the US command headquarters in Stuttgart on Wednesday had to calculate what allied strength would be needed to create an appropriate deterrent to the forces of President Saddam Hussein.

The principal deterrent will be American air power. There is a substantial US Air Force presence in Turkey, sufficient to repel any attempt by the Iraqis to mount fixed-wing or helicopter attacks on the Kurdish refugee safe havens, once they are formed.

The US declared "safe haven" north of the 36th parallel in Iraq

American air power in Turkey is ready to guarantee the safety of allied troops now establishing safe havens for Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq, Michael Evans reports

covers the whole Turkish border, but omits about half of Kurdistan, mostly along the Iranian border. Within the planned area, north of the 36th parallel, there are at least 30,000 Iraqi troops, a mixture of lightly-armed infantry and armoured units brought up from southern Iraq after the defeat by the allies.

Most of the Iraqi forces control the town of Zakho, which was retaken from Kurdish rebels three weeks ago. The town lies less than 10 miles south east from Silopi, the American refugee command centre in Turkey. In the mountainous border areas where the refugees are located, the terrain is totally unsuitable for tank movement. But lower down on the Iraqi plains, armoured action would be possible, if Baghdad felt inclined to ignore the warnings against interfering with the relief effort.

According to military sources, the Iraqi forces in the area had achieved their initial aim of retaking the main settlements in the north from the Kurdish rebels and now appeared "content to stay put without going any further". The distance and terrain would be against their mounting any large-scale operation against the refugee camps. But ultimately the Iraqis will be deterred from launching military action by the severity of the consequences if they did. If there is one thing Saddam has learnt since January, it is that he will be hit hard if he tries anything.

The allied military presence, which will include Royal Marine commandos, was created in the knowledge that the Iraqi infantry and armoured units in the area are all "stiffened" with Republican Guard units. Iraqi armed forces were so vast that, despite suffering appalling losses in the war, Saddam still has a useful army. But without air power to back up any operation, American, British and French commanders are confident that the

Iraqi forces will steer clear of the refugee camps. They know that, if they use combat fighters and helicopters in breach of the ceasefire arrangement, they will be shot down.

Apart from operating combat air patrols over northern Iraq, the US will also keep a rapid reaction force of army and Marine Corps troops deployed in Turkey to detect and counter any Iraqi interference.

Lieutenant-General John Shalikashvili of the US army arrived at the Turkish base of Incirlik on Wednesday to take overall command of the allied task force.

President Ozal of Turkey said yesterday that Saddam's army was too weak to prevent Western powers from setting up refugee havens in northern Iraq. "From what I see, Iraq does not have the power to intervene there," he said.

His view reflects the opinion of General Norman Schwarzkopf, the allied commander during the war with Iraq, who said recently that the Iraqi forces were capable of routing rebel forces but no longer posed a serious threat in the region.

Nevertheless, the coalition forces will have to demonstrate they mean business. It may be a temporary humanitarian exercise, but the 5,000 Royal Marine and army personnel expected to be sent to northern Iraq will be suitably armed. The commandos will have Milan anti-tank missiles, 81mm mortars and other weapons. The brigade includes 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery.

The brigade's air squadron is expected to be included in the deployment. It has Lynx and Gazelle helicopters. Sea King helicopters are also expected to be sent.

RELIEF EFFORT

US marines move into top gear to aid refugees

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN SILOPI, SOUTHERN TURKEY

THE giant American military machine switched into top gear yesterday as the 800 personnel at this new forward base ten miles from the border worked against the clock to begin preparations for erecting refugee camps inside northern Iraq. For those who had earlier observed Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia there was a strong sense of déjà vu as the camouflaged Humvee Jeep-style vehicles began to arrive and rows of tents, some flying the Stars and Stripes, mushroomed in fields commandeered by the Turkish authorities.

Officers insisted that the mission was essentially humanitarian, but the three squads of marines exercising with menacing reality in a wheeled showed that Operation Provide Comfort would have a sharp military edge if any of the 30,000 Iraqi troops attempt to disrupt it.

Reporters were kept away from the combat-ready marines, armed with M16 rifles and portable machineguns, who were rehearsing landing inside Iraq and for dealing with any outbreaks of disorder among the 700,000 refugees as they began moving back in about two weeks from their positions on the border.

"This is not a combat operation, but the US military always has to have contingency plans," said Major Ron Gabagan, seconded to Turkey from his base in West Germany. "Our aim is to get this baby handed over to the international relief agencies just as soon as we can."

Helicopter pilots, who have already dropped supplies as far as 20 miles inside Iraq without any interference from

Iraqi troops, expressed cautious optimism that the severe drubbing given to the Iraqi forces during the Gulf war would deter them from interfering. "I think the Iraqis realise the consequences of any action that they take against us," said Major Michael Lennon, from Chicago, fresh from flying two relief missions to refugees perched on nearby mountains. "They have already had a taste of what the US can give them."

Like other pilots based in a former rest station for Muslim pilgrims, which is now US air control headquarters, Major Lennon appeared emotionally involved in the operation, the biggest humanitarian mission ever undertaken by the American military. He said that all the crew of his helicopter had wept when they made their first food drop earlier this week. He said that so far there had been no sign of the refugees beginning to move back into Iraq as a result of the American pledge to set up the havens. "We have not seen any movement at all yet," he said. "I think they will stay in the camps here until someone goes in and convinces them to leave - they have already been shot at once by the Iraqis."

Another pilot, Major Rich Mehauffey, from North Carolina, who had also landed after dropping supplies, said that the Iraqis would resist military action against the American, British and French troops who will guard the refugees.

"I have seen no sign of any hostile action against us so far by the Iraqis," he declared.

Who claims credit? page 14



Rescue patrol: American marines patrolling a US logistics base near Silopi, in Turkey, not far from a camp for 6,000 Kurdish refugees who were moved there from the Iraqi border. US helicopters have flown packages of ready-to-eat meals and crates of water to the camp

UN says donor response too slow

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN TEHRAN

THE senior United Nations official co-ordinating relief for Kurdish refugees in Iran said yesterday that the Western donor response to the crisis here so far amounted to only a fraction of what is required.

Sean Sinn, UN resident co-ordinator in Tehran, said he had grown hoarse in his efforts to convey to donor countries the extent of the crisis. He said there was a huge discrepancy between aid required and what was actually arriving.

"There is a trickle which is getting a little bit larger," he said. "International contributions are working up slowly, but not at all with the rapidity that the situation demands."

Mr Sinn's comments came on the eve of a visit to Tehran by Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, who is due to meet Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, tomorrow to discuss ways in which Britain can step up its contribution.

Iran is estimated to be coping with between one and one and a half million refugees and reports from border areas yesterday continued to speak of abject suffering among a large proportion who still have no shelter of any kind and insufficient food.

Thousands are still stuck on the Iraqi side of the border in what Mr Sinn called a "tragic pipeline", unable to cross into Iran because of laborious border checks and sheer volume of people on roads bordered by mines. Mr Sinn said Iran was doing its best to supply food, tents and blankets and was quickly dispersing aid. But he believed Tehran's political isolation and disavowal in some Western capitals was behind the sluggish response to calls for assistance.

SOVIET UNION Foreign ministry supports the West

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet foreign ministry, in a strikingly moderate statement which may well irritate pro-Iraqi conservatives in Moscow, yesterday described Western action to protect the Kurds as necessary because of the humanitarian emergency.

Yuri Gerasimovich, the ministry spokesman, said the deployment of American, British and French troops in northern Iraq must be exclusively for humanitarian purposes, and carried out in such a way as "not to bring damage to Iraq's sovereign rights". But despite the "delicate issues" it raised, the operation was "an emergency step necessitated by the extreme gravity of the situation which has arisen".

Mr Gerasimovich said that, in his opinion, the Western move to create havens offered the best chance of saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of refugees, who should eventually be allowed to return home. The use of troops reflected that civilian emergency services and international charities did not have the resources to cope with such a big operation. While there was "profound sympathy" in the Soviet Union for the Kurds' plight, he hinted Moscow did not have the funds to be of much help.

UNITED NATIONS Baghdad gives its assent to relief

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IRAQ yesterday agreed to allow the United Nations to oversee a relief operation for Kurdish and Shia refugees throughout Iraq while allied forces pressed ahead with their own plans to give refugees armed protection in northern Iraq.

Baghdad again extended its amnesty offer, giving Kurds the right to return home. A de facto ceasefire between Kurdish guerrillas and government forces entered its second day while Kurdish leaders considered a new offer of autonomy from President Saddam Hussein.

The Iraqi announcement could complicate the West's attempt to stretch its legal right to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs further than the UN is ready to accept.

Resolution 688, passed on April 5, in legal terms, the claim is rather disingenuous. Resolution 688 was passed with Chinese and Soviet support after Turkey said that the flight of the Kurds was threatening peace and security.

Yet the measure was not adopted under chapter VII of the charter, the enforcement provisions. Thus it does not fall within the exception to the principle of non-interference contained in article 2, paragraph 7. The Western powers did not try to include a provision helping the Kurds in the ceasefire resolution, number 687, which was passed under chapter VII the day after Turkey's complaint.

Resolution 688 makes no provision for Western armies even to help the Kurds. In paragraph 3, it says merely that the security council "insists that Iraq allow immediate access by international humanitarian organisations to all those in need of assistance in all parts of Iraq and to make available all necessary facilities for their operations."

Paragraph 6 "appeals to all member states and to all humanitarian organisations to contribute to these humanitarian relief efforts."

British diplomats have been preparing a new resolution to force Iraq to accept "safe havens" for the Kurds. That effort has run into opposition from China and the Soviet Union, who can both veto any security council action.

IRAQ Shia shrines show Saddam's mark

FROM ADAM KELIHER IN KARBALA, SOUTHERN IRAQ

ACCORDING to the official version of events, the blitzed boulevard lying between two of the holiest mosques of Shias was razed under an urban renewal programme. If that is so, Karbala's municipal workers must have used howitzers, grenades and machine guns in place of the customary shovels and pneumatic drills.

"The city of Karbala did this because we wanted to make it nice," said the provincial governor, General Abdul Khaliq Aziz. "We use dynamite, and if you come in about two or three months' time, you will see how nice it will be. Before, it was old and very dirty."

But during a visit to Karbala and the sister holy city of Najaf yesterday, it was clear that devastation has been wreaked during intense combat last month when government forces moved to wrest the two cities from Islamic zealots.

The government is openly uneasy about what happened and evidently wishes to play down the battle. It is aware of the emotional significance to millions of Shias of the occupation of the holy sites in Karbala that mark the resting places of Hussein and Abbas - two of the sons of Ali, the patron of the Shia branch of Islam - surrounded by urban destruction.

The rebels held the city for 10 days, losing control of it after three days of combat.



Personal mission: the overseas development minister, Lynda Chalker, meeting Tugay Ozer, a Turkish foreign minister, in Ankara on her way to visit refugees

RIGHTS REPORT Censorship 'boost for repression'

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CITIZENS of 62 countries are routinely jailed for expressing views contrary to those of their governments, with 30 nations employing torture and murder to silence opposition, according to a report published yesterday by Article 19, the independent human rights group which campaigns internationally for freedom of the press.

It shows how censorship in Turkey, Iran and Iraq prevented decades of oppression of the Kurds from getting international attention.

BRITISH EFFORT

Chinooks supply last link in life-saving chain

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN DIYARBAKIR

THE Chinook helicopter hovering over Diyarbakir military airport still wore its sand-coloured coat of paint from service in the Gulf. "The job is basically the same," said Wing Commander Dick Forsyth, who had also ferried supplies to the Falkland Islands, "moving bulk quickly."

The ten Chinooks under his command are the final link in the aid chain to reach the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Kurds still stranded along the border with Turkey. Clear warm weather is easing the job of the two British helicopters already

operating out of the mountain town of Hakkari. It will, however, increase the risk of epidemics and make their job all the more urgent.

"There are enormous numbers of moving parts pushing to get into line," said the wing commander. When the relief machine is finally up and running, he hopes that he and his team of more than 200 men will be able to move between 50 and 100 tons of supplies an hour. At the moment, he confessed, the multinational teams doing the air drops and helicopter runs were just trying to plug the hole and keep the refugees alive.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, the

minister for overseas development, arrives in Diyarbakir early this morning at the start of a helicopter tour which will include both the tent city established by the Turkish government near the town of Silopi as well as the mountain camps from which they came.

She will be accompanied by Dr David Nabarro, from the Overseas Development Agency, who will be co-ordinating the British relief effort.

Diyarbakir is the central air hub of the operation and will act as forwarding station for the helicopter crews from many nations also operating out of Silopi. British efforts

are now aimed at establishing a second centre in Hakkari, which will serve refugees further east still on the Iraqi side of the border.

The Western allies claim the right to enter Iraq to help the Kurds under Security Council resolution 688, passed on April 5. In legal terms, the

umbrella of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as well as the Turkish Red Crescent determine what aid is needed. Lorries then take the supplies as far as is possible along the two international highways - the one travelling south through Silopi to Iraq and that going due east through the city of Van towards Iran. It is then that the Chinooks will spring into action, ferrying pre-packed nets laden with supplies to where they are needed.

A Swiss helicopter relief team said that they had seen two groups of previously unrecorded refugees halfway along the Iraqi border.



KURDISH REFUGEE CRISIS Concern alone won't save their lives.

£18 WILL.

Today thousands of Kurdish refugees who survived the Gulf War are facing death yet again. Forced to flee their homes, and trapped in makeshift camps, their lives are at risk from cold, starvation and disease.

Tragically, those most at risk are women and children - especially the very young who are most vulnerable to disease. Without help they will suffer and die in their thousands.

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Peter Stothard, US editor, examines how a humanitarian gesture to help the Kurds degenerated into a slanging-match



Bush: irritated by Major's headline-grabbing

There has been no more demeaning spectacle since Iraq invaded Kuwait than the battle between Britain and America to take credit for saving the lives of the Kurds. In some parts of Washington, John Major is seen as rewriting history before the blood is dry on its pages, while in Westminster some think President Bush is denying Britain its rightful share of praise. A political risk in the cause of humanitarian relief has become a battleground in an unseemly "glory war".

Many people contributed to the plan to provide refuge for the Kurds. The Turks appear to have the best claim to have originated the idea; American conservatives promoted it to the President; the French played an important part; Mrs Thatcher galvanised her successor, and Mr Major himself, whether or not he had the idea first, drove it doggedly through clogged international channels. The plan was swiftly adopted, and for now at least, the Kurds are the beneficiaries.

President Bush was cautious about a return to Iraq. He did not want to be at the forefront of a new armed intervention, which, like

Transatlantic skirmish in the glory wars

They say over US aid to Kurds

HOW DARE BUSH TAKE ALL THE GLORY?

then support at all. As the British claims of moral leadership intensified, President Bush's spokesman Martin Fitzwater well summed up the mood. Countering fire with fire he produced an equally unwise and aggressive counter-statement,

suggesting that the plan was wholly American.

Mr Fitzwater was in turn mocked by the American press and excoriated by British Tories anxious that their leader screw the maximum number of votes from his diplomatic game. By yesterday morning the White House had a fax of the front of London's *Evening Standard*, claiming that the relationship between President Bush and John Major is strained "as never before".

Mr Bush was wise enough to see that this squabble was getting out of hand. Mr Fitzwater was asked to renege the statement which had caused the fuss, and the White House waited for some appropriate response, preferably in private, from London.

Until the glory war began, Britain's contribution to the Kurdish relief effort had been well

remarked and appreciated by the American press, which has generally been more supportive of Kurdish aid than the administration. That popular appreciation remains, but Downing Street should be aware that behind its benign smiles and photo-opportunities for bonhomie, the Bush White House contains some tough fighters with long memories.

Some of them are already pointing out the most remarkable aspect of this whole affair. The policy in question is not obviously something to be fought over. It is the kind of tricky decision from which a prudent politician would keep a prudent distance. Armed aid for the Kurds may soon mean armed enclaves for the Kurds, even an armed embryonic state. Rightly or wrongly, the new policy overturns the carefully crafted conservative philosophy that eschews nation-building, particularly in states where one has neither legal nor actual control.

"They now ring the bells but soon they will bring the hands," said Sir Robert Walpole. Even he might have been amazed to see his successor fighting so hard over who should pull the bell-ropes.



Major: wanted to show his leadership qualities

School's out for ideologues

Janet Daley

By making them an offer they can't refuse, Kenneth Clarke is presenting teachers with more than a new pay procedure. He is asking them to make a fundamental decision about their role as a profession and, even more important for parents and children, about the function of education itself.

A pay review body modelled on those of professions which have accepted no-strike agreements would transform the status of teaching, and irrevocably change its relationship with the unions. Indeed this has all the hallmarks of a reluctant government gambit to break the closed circle of the education establishment's hegemony. But had the teachers' unions not appointed themselves guardians of an unpopular educational dogma—a front-line defender of progressive ideology—their position would not now need to be weakened.

Attacking the government for bringing education under political control is unlikely to attract much sympathy from parents, since the profession itself has been imposing an explicitly political philosophy on the schools. While the government has at least the virtue of a democratic mandate, the unelected educational establishment has too often behaved as though responsible to no one but itself.

The question which underlies all the educational controversy of recent years is the most basic of all: to whom do the schools belong? Teachers, as represented by their spokesmen in the more aggressive unions, have supported the view that education can be determined only by educationists. In their enclosed, self-referring circles of influence, education policy-makers have taken extraordinary liberties with a system of universal schooling which, at least tacitly, belongs to all of us. By removing the strike option from the unions, Kenneth Clarke could be seen to be going for the softest target. After all, the NUT, the most militant of the unions, has been losing members and power in recent years.

Everyone familiar with the education scene knows that the root of the problem lies in the teacher training colleges. So why not reform the teaching of teachers? Every Conservative Secretary of State for Education since Sir Keith (now Lord) Joseph has longed to reconstitute teacher training, but the problem is one of infinite regress. Teacher-training produces a product acceptable to local authority education officers, which appoint teachers on advice from educational advisors, who are hired because they have attitudes approved by colleges of education. Dismayed by this, the government has decided to dismantle the mechanisms of power rather than waste more time in futile theoretical argument.

It is gambling on the hope there are still legions of conscientious teachers, whose good sense and generosity may yet prevail, given a chance. Through local management of schools and the opt-out procedure (which the unions, of course, vociferously oppose), it hopes to pry the fingers of intrusive local education authorities off the levers of educational policy. By weakening the armory of the unions, it hopes to liberate individual teachers from the pressure of politicised lobbyists. Only in a pluralistic, variegated system can parents, children and communities get a say in what education should be about by exercising their freedom of choice.

With luck, we are entering an era in which individual schools, guided by the personal and perhaps idiosyncratic philosophies of their heads and governors, will be hiring their own teachers, with both sides freed from control by monolithic power blocks.

The Labour party will, for public consumption, add its voice to the shrieks of protest at this "dictatorial" Tory policy. Privately, it will have a sigh of relief at the undermining of militancy among the teaching unions and give thanks for being relieved of the future need to defend their indefensible actions. Another fine mess you've got them out of, Mr Clarke.

The new Archbishop is enthroned in Canterbury today. Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, welcomes a surge of faith across the Christian spectrum

One hundred and fifty years after Matthew Arnold proclaimed "the Church of England as it now stands no human power can save", the church is poised for growth. The long slow decline from 1851 (coinciding with our declining share of world trade) has bottomed out. Nearly everywhere there are signs of new life and hopeful determination. This is a good time to be a member of the Church of England, and it is a great moment to be made Primate of All England.

The fizzy 1960s left the Church of England in disarray. Many of its best priests wondered whether there was a specifically priestly job to do, and left to become social workers (some of them ending up as directors of social services). Yet by the 1980s it was obvious that there was a recovery of quiet confidence. Numbers may not have been spectacular, but there was a strong sense of being in business again.

Many churches are now growing, not only charismatic evangelical ones. The latest Marc Europe poll showed that over recent years village congregations in Oxfordshire representing a variety of traditions have increased. It is as well, however, not to be too depressed or elated by alleged rises or falls in church attendance. We in the diocese of Oxford conducted our own survey on why churches grow, and discovered that the one factor which growing churches of all traditions had in common was that the previous incumbent had been in place a very long time. But even this is not without significance. Many people in the country are ready to respond to fresh ideas and enthusiastic leadership. These George Carey certainly offers.

Mr Ronald Knox thought enthusiasm a sin bordering on heresy. If so, it is not one by which the Church of England has been much tempted. As one of Queen

Victoria's prime ministers once put it: "We must have a religion that is cool and indifferent and such a one as we have got." But religion is a passion or it is nothing. This passion may be channelled into the exquisite discipline of plainsong, the heart-rending spiritual intensity of Russian Orthodox chant or charismatic songs, but God is one who by definition makes a total difference to our lives. Furthermore, if God has revealed Himself to us in a human heart and mind, this is a truth all Christians will want to share with others. Almost without exception, churches are generating up for the Decade of Evangelism.

Dr Carey, with his evangelical roots and charismatic experience, will give a firm lead to the decade, but it is wrong to stereotype him as narrow in his Christian sympathies. Quite the contrary is the case. Shortly after his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, he was seen leading a diocesan pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham. He readily admits to being nourished by both Roman and Anglo-Catholic forms of spirituality. In this he is not untypical of the new generation of evangelical ordinands, of whom I see a good number from Oxford University. A surprisingly high percentage of them have PhDs. Although typically they have experienced conversion, they see their spiritual life as a pilgrimage, a continuing development and growth, in which they are conscious of learning from Roman, Anglo-Catholic and Orthodox spiritual writings.

Furthermore, in contrast to evangelicals of a previous generation, who tended to accept the political status quo, they are anxious to work out a distinctively Christian approach to the political and economic order, one which is often quite radical. These are the people who in five or ten years will be running



Carey's predecessor: St Dunstan enthroned at Canterbury in 959

many Church of England parishes, and a good lot they are: very different from the evangelicals of the 1960s and so disliked.

Yet in many parishes, many able, dedicated priests are getting steady, if unspectacular, results. The great strength of the Church of England is at the local level. National storms continue to blow up, but at the parish level the

bereaved are sustained, the sick are strengthened, and young people discover the faith. Lay people are putting their gifts to work in the service of the church and the community.

For some traditional Catholics, there is a feeling of lachrymose glory departed. The great Anglo-Catholic congresses of the 1920s are no more. That was a time

when a whole train had to be hired to take the Sunday schools on an outing to the coast. But the glory has not gone; it has influenced and now shines in the whole. Most of the battles of the old Anglo-Catholics have been fought and won. The Eucharist is now the central act of worship in all churches, including evangelical ones. Charismatics both lift their right hands heavenwards when singing and make the sign of the cross. People of all traditions now go on retreats. The need for spiritual directors or confessors or soul friends is widely recognised. As one who consciously came into the Catholic tradition of the Church of England as a young adult and who continues to be nourished by it, I warmly welcome the way the riches of the universal church are now being enjoyed so widely. I look forward to the whole church being enriched by the evangelical charismatic tradition which Dr Carey represents.

First, on the question of tithing: it is no accident that the most flourishing churches today are those which teach and practise the biblical norm of giving 10 per cent of personal income to the work of God. They not only have enough money to employ full-time church workers and youth workers, but are able to give substantial sums to the wider mission of the church.

Secondly, in the sensitive sharing of faith with others: most Christians in the Church of England lack confidence about and experience of discussing their faith naturally and convincingly with others. Yet St Paul says that we are all called upon to give a reason for the hope that is within us. Here, too, the evangelical tradition, with its new confidence and sense of ease in the church, has much to share with the church as a whole.

Under Dr Runcie's intelligent, humane and distinguished leadership, the Church of England slogged through difficult times and emerged as a force still to be reckoned with. Dr Carey, with his quick mind, willingness to learn and spiritual robustness, is the right man to take the church on a quick march forwards.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

They were still there this afternoon, waddling a somewhat erratic course and muttering *sotto voce* at one another. A pair of stockbrokers, you might have said, the senior partner in the dun brown suit taking advantage of a good lunch's bonhomie to convey discreetly to the junior partner in the flash green-and-purple outfit that, all right, times have changed, Big Bang, Docklands, all these wonderful things, but I accept that City can't stand still, but bloody hell, old man, turning up for work looking like a perishing bookie, it's a bit strong.

Had you said that, of course, you would not have noticed that they were actually a couple of ducks. I do not have stockbrokers on my lawn. I do not have stockbrokers hopping in and out of my pond. More to the point, I do not have stockbrokers zipping over the border from fashionable NW1 in the hope of making a quick property killing in the currently vulnerable purlieus of NW2.

Most to the point, however, I have never before had ducks doing any of these things, either. For the past 20 years, the only interest they have ever shown in my premises has expressed itself as a derisive honk as they overflew them on their way to and from Regent's Park. Nash-side ornamental lakes are where these birds are habitually to be found slumming, leaving only for brief slumming joy-rides to remind themselves of their good luck in being hatched the right side of the blanket. Watch them winging smugly homeward above Finch-

ley Road, and you will see something as close to a victory roll as a duck ever comes.

But this year is different. This year, the ducks, they honked. They did not bang about, either they ambled the lawn, they stomped the flowerbeds, they poked a beak into this and that, they hopped up on the roller, they spent a fair amount of time pecking the shed, and all the while they squawked and chattered. Clearly, they were sussing things out. Only then did they waddle to the pond, hop in, hop out, and retire to the middle of the lawn for a bit of a think. It occurred to me, as the sun went down on their continuing deliberations, that one of them might be an estate agent and the other a client, but the next morning sorted that out. They were a couple. They were on the pond and pulling the reeds about. They had moved in and were doing the place up.

They were gratifying it. Mine had always been a scruffy sort of a pond, uncultivated, no lilies, lights, or water-spraying plastic nymphs, but suddenly it looked unrecognisably neat. All dead leaves, broken reeds, loose twigs, browned pondweed, had been gathered up and were being fashioned into a bijou nest. A worry, this I phoned the zoo.

"Yes," said the zoo, "We've had a lot of calls this year. The park lakes are probably getting overcrowded. Ducks are colonising local ponds."

"It's only 20 feet square," I said. "Can they bring kids up on that?"

"Yes," said the zoo, "but

cats'll probably get them. And sometimes the parents desert a small pond, in which case you might find the ducklings attaching themselves to you."

In rang off, and went round to the library. According to John Sparke's *Bird Behaviour*, "because to imprinting, ducklings forced to accept strange substitutes as foster parents may never learn to live with individuals of their own kind, but prefer those of the foster parent."

That's all I need. An attic full of squawking neurotics tearing their feathers out over what to write about today, fighting to get to the gin, leaving their dog-cats all over constantly running downstairs to see if there's an old Dan Dailey film on. When I rang the zoo again, she said: "Well then, shoo the pair off gently, and put chicken-netting over the pond to stop them resettling."

It was while I was waiting at the Do-It-All checkout that a sudden fearful thought so shook me that the roll on my shoulder let out a loud galvanised rattle. Might this unprecedented Regent's Park episode have anything to do with crowded lakes at all? Might the ducks simply have got wind of the closure-threat to the zoo and the consequent disappearance of all those bread-chucking visitors who will no longer be drawn thither, and decided not to hang about for official decisions but take the mooted dispersal of the Regent's Park fauna into their own hands?

And were they merely the first to do so? Might I wake up, some morning soon, to find a brace of rhino on the lawn?

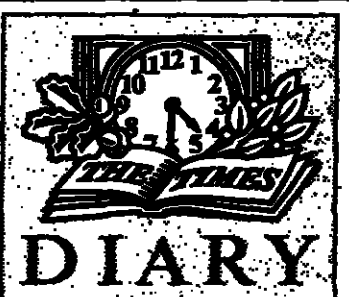
High voltage careers

The enthronement today of George Carey as the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury is another advance for John Major's classless society. Eton and Oxbridge seem to have had their day. Today's heads of government and church share a much more humble training ground: making the tea as office juniors at the London Electricity Board.

The archbishop and the prime minister, who will attend the ceremony with his wife Norma, are unlikely to swap tales of meter reading as they wait in the vestibule, but their spells as LEB office boys almost overlapped. Major joined the board as his first job in 1959, the year after Carey left. The future archbishop had joined at 15 in 1951, and worked for the board for seven years, with a break for National Service in Iraq, where he discovered his priestly vocation.

John Wilson, the board's chairman and chief executive, is delighted at the soaring progress of two former employees. "We see ourselves as the power behind London," says Wilson (Worcester Grammar School and Birmingham College of Technology). "It is encouraging to learn that we are the power behind the great and the good as well."

Carey has fond memories of the period when he took his O and A levels while working as a teenage office boy in the board's East India Dock Road depot. In an interview in the LEB's staff newspaper, *Live Wire*, on becoming bishop of Bath and Wells, he recalled: "I had some very happy times there and everyone I worked with was very kind to me. I would be particularly thrilled to hear from my former district manager, A. W. Vincent. He took me under his wing when I joined the board and greatly



helped me broaden my education, introducing me to the works of Charles Dickens and lending me books."

Also, the board's records show that Mr Vincent died some years ago. Perhaps it is just as well, for his recollections of the archbishop's early career might have been less fond. In his first week, the teenage Carey accidentally tore up a £5 note with which he had been dispatched to buy supplies. "It wasn't a very good start to my new job," recalls the archbishop, "but Mr Vincent was very understanding." Indeed, the man sounds positively saintly.

● The cost of opera-going rises inexorably. Those on the 14-year waiting list for the Glyndebourne Festival are now being charged £50 simply for the pleasure of queuing. As there are currently 7,000 on the list, this rose could net the opera up to £350,000. And those who die before their wait is up do not even qualify for a refund.

Dog stars

Man dogs are quite sane compared to some of the Englishmen who own them. The National Canine Defence League is organising a Paw-Vision Song Contest for musical mutts, as part of a fundraising drive later this year. More than 150 tapes have been submitted already, and Ozis Price of the league is listening to every last

whelp and growl so as to produce a shortlist for the finals on October 13. "Some are fantastic, although a few are a bit rough," she says.

So what qualities is she looking for? "Very much the same as in the Eurovision Song Contest. I suppose: enthusiasm and the ability to move or less hold a tune. Actually some of them are considerably better at that than the



average Eurovision entry." Most popular tunes are themes from television soap-operas such as *Coronation Street* and *East Enders*. "But Neighbours is the most popular of all. Dogs seem to love it." There is also, apparently, a surprising number of entries using the tune which introduces the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News*.

Best of four

Scream Lord Sutcliffe and Commander Bill Boakes have got nothing on Reginald Vernon Simpkins, the "anti-walking, cycling on Sundays" candidate, who proposes the compulsory wearing of paperbags on the head. While Sutcliffe and Boakes have succeeded only in running up record numbers of lost deposits, Simpkins has done something his fringe candidate rivals have only dreamed about. His party has not only saved its deposit, but beaten Tory, Labour and Liberal Democrat at the ballot box. At least he has done so in a forthcoming radio

advertisement aimed at increasing voter registration, and featuring Messrs Ashdown, Kinnoch and Major.

In an unprecedented move, the three party leaders have sunk their political differences to appear in the ad. "In a democracy, this could happen," says the broadcaster, which features the voices of all three party leaders. Funded by the Association of London Authorities, the campaign hopes to woo an estimated 60,000 non-registered voters in the capital. Meanwhile, Simpkins is contemplating which of the great offices of state he should take in the next government.

Mountain range

British Telecom is extending corporate generosity to the Kurds in the Turkish mountains. The company decided yesterday to ship out 15,000 boilersuits, which have become redundant since the company redesigned its familiar yellow "BT" insignia in favour of the new prancing Pan logo. The clothes are not hand-me-downs, BT insists, for they have never seen the inside of a telephone box. All the uniforms are brand new, but made obsolete by the new corporate image. Described as "heavy-duty", the overalls are apparently perfect for the sub-zero temperatures.

● Lord Denham, who is about to retire from being the government's chief whip in the Lords, offers some reflections on his job in *The Field* next month. Taking the derivation of his title perhaps a little too literally (it is from the whipper-in to a pack of foxhounds), Denham, a former joint master of the hounds, says: "We are a few days a week pack, meeting at 2.30 and usually blowing home between 10.30 and 11 pm. He says they 'aim to be back in kennels by 5 pm at the latest'."



SLAYING THE VAMPIRE

Has the monster really been slain? Did the cabinet yesterday finally admit the sunlight, administer the garlic, drive the stake through the heart? If the poll tax is dead, why do the intrepid assassins not dare to say so, especially when the Tory party is in the middle of a local election campaign and the "dither" factor is high in the political charts?

After last month's cabinet committee, when ministers could not quite bring themselves to eliminate the "people tax" from the new property tax, the Conservatives groaned and Labour gave a whoop of delight. The proposed tax levied on all local citizens on a basis of whether each household contained one, two or three people was clearly a poll tax and Labour said so. John Major and his colleagues allowed themselves one last panic-stricken dither and called it a day. The "very strongly preferred option" for the new "council tax" approved by yesterday's cabinet will be based unequivocally on property values.

The only faint echo of the people tax will be a discount for those properties occupied by a single person. To achieve this discount, some approved percentage of each assessment will have to be declared as "person-based". Whether single people really make less use of local services is debatable. Single parents and the elderly probably make above-average claims on children's and old people's services. If they are on low incomes or in receipt of benefit they could anyway claim rebate — indeed the cabinet is about to abandon the 20 per cent minimum payment and thereby remove tens of thousands of potential taxpayers from the net. For those not in straitened circumstances who choose to live alone in properties much larger than they need, the full tax is fair. Part of the point of a property tax is to encourage the more efficient use of living space.

In these terms, the single-person discount is not justified and is a bad decision. But to regard it as "son of poll tax", or even a distant cousin, is to stretch family resemblance beyond reasonable bounds.

The discount is Mr Major's peace offering to the spirits of the recent dead. The cabinet must hope that the Tory right will be less able to mobilise the dreaded parade of "little old ladies in vast mansions", which has so perplexed the whips in recent weeks. The battle against this inefficient, unfair and electorally disastrous tax can be declared won. Mr Major deserves credit for gracefully admitting defeat.

Local government finance must be removed from the political agenda — and fast. This year's poll tax collection has been a shambles as a result of the dithering, with millions of letters and forms littering the town halls, sorting offices and letter boxes of the nation. Whatever the basis for property-tax valuation that ministers finally choose — and their preference for "banded" capital values is full of trouble — the case for reverting to the existing rates register is overwhelming. Above all, it can be done at once for 1992-3. This would mean that the poll tax could be not just dead but buried in time for an autumn election, before the issuing of new rate bills for 1992-3 with the resulting cacophony of losers. Some other system of valuation can be introduced later.

Reports from the local elections from say that the tax is already losing its bite as a hustings issue. The Labour party, which has been exploiting the tax ever since its invention, should magnanimously agree a bipartisan approach to local government finance, and welcome Michael Heseltine's offer to discuss local government reform.

Local government was abused throughout the 1980s, largely because Margaret Thatcher and the Treasury were hostile to local democracy. There is no reason for the hostility to continue. The key will lie in the details of reform, both to local taxation and to local structure. Labour should prove its political maturity by reacting constructively to next week's announcement.

A LONG DARK TUNNEL

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, saw "light at the end of the tunnel" in yesterday's unemployment figures. His is a vivid imagination. Unemployment has now risen for 12 straight months. The total exceeds two million for the first time in three years. True, the level of unemployment is a lagging indicator; economic recovery has to be well under way before unemployment falls. But this brings little comfort. What matters more is the rate of change of unemployment. This is moving in the wrong direction. The adjusted rise in March is the highest since records began, 20 years ago. This coincides with the news that manufacturing output in February fell by 1.6 per cent.

The bad news is not entirely unexpected. The Treasury realised at the end of last summer that the economy was moving into recession. By autumn, it was privately admitting as much to outside commentators. Nothing was done. Partly this was because ministers convinced themselves that higher unemployment was necessary to bring down inflation, partly it was for political reasons.

High interest rates were regarded as the necessary price of the decision to join the exchange rate mechanism at the then prevailing rate. The bulk of the cabinet, the Conservative party and, it should be said, the business community was at the time prepared to pay it. Those who really paid were those who lost their jobs, including many respectable, hard-working Conservative supporters.

Where is the real light at the end of the tunnel? It must lie in the recovery that ministers expect later this year. The Treasury line, that recoveries depend partly on policy, partly on confidence, is not unreasonable. The neutral Budget did nothing to increase demand, leaving lower interest rates as the only club in the chancellor's bag. Since then, interest rates have come down with painful slowness. Here and there, brave

prognosticators have sniffed recovery in the wind, but the evidence is largely anecdotal, with considerable assistance from property salesmen. Yesterday's dire news will have done nothing to send businessmen rushing to anticipate a revival of demand.

The government must accept that at present "policy" is in the lead over "confidence". The prime minister is right that lower pay settlements would help. But lower pay settlements are a reflection of deeper economic realities, including the continuing stickiness of Britain's labour market. Pay settlements have been slow to adjust to the prospective fall in inflation, with the underlying rate down only 4 per cent, to 94 per cent, on yesterday's figures. This reflects a high level of unionisation in both the private and, especially, the public sectors.

The government has no control over the private sector, but can at least show the way with its own employees. Nothing will be a clearer indicator of the seriousness of Mr Major's counterinflation strategy than his and the Treasury's attitude towards the spring pay round. Not to use that round systematically to force down "going rates" in the unionised job market would be a serious mistake. But the root of recovery still lies in interest rates. Stalling has performed well recently, but the government has been excessively timid whenever an opportunity arises to cut rates further.

Bluntly, the government is hyper-sensitive to currency and stock markets, insensitive to recession. Bringing interest rates down is a delicate process, where subtlety of tactics is essential to a successful strategy. After yesterday's news, the government should err on the side of inaction. With an election so close, the price of caution now being charged to the unemployed could yet be charged to the government itself.

AN ISLE TOO FAR

If Bonnie Prince Charlie is planning his overdue return in 1995, on the 250th anniversary of his uprising, he had better be heading for the sea not by Bonnie boat must travel over the sea but by Bonnie boat but across the Skye bridge. Construction of a 700-metre link between the Kyle of Lochalsh on the mainland and Kyleakin on Skye was announced by the Scottish Office yesterday. The decision will bring to an end, so ministers hope, 20 years of passionate debate.

Few will be surprised that Ian Lang, the least romantic of Scottish secretaries, has decided this way. He was under pressure. The locals want the bridge, thinking it will enrich them. They hope to get the best of both worlds: the spiritual uplift of an environment without equal, and the material pleasures of an income nearer to that of other Britons.

From the point of view of those who live in Skye now, the agitation made perfect sense. Everybody wants someone else's money to pave their own backyard; the £6 million the government is putting in to the approach roads is manna to them. The approach roads do not even stop there. The bulk of the finance for the bridge, which will be the longest of its kind in the northern hemisphere, will be private; but the islanders are sphere, will be private; but the islanders are promised a discount for using it. Visitors cannot be expected to regret the fact.

None the less the adverse consequences are readily predictable. So far not much public money is involved in this project, though it may yet be. The European Commission, flushed with its success in

building highways from nowhere to nowhere in the Western Isles, will be offering grants for new roads across the Cullin Hills. The people of Raasay will want a bridge; and, when they get it, why not Scalpay too? A natural wilderness will soon become a construction site.

For an island people, Britons have been slow to appreciate the value of places completely surrounded by water. The main opposition to this bridge has come from the conservationists. But the chief concern should not be about wildlife, but about people. The difficulty of getting to Skye, or Orkney or Lewis, is essential to the unique spell which these islands can cast over humankind. When those barriers are lowered, down too come the attractions of overlooking them.

Before long on Skye (or the Bonnie Prince Charlie Theme Park, as it will be renamed) mountain boots will turn to trendy trainers; no family hotel will be complete without thistle wallpaper and jaccuzzi; and Portree will be lined with souvenir shops selling Charlie boats and Pretender Rock. At the other end of Britain, Treacra has never been the same since a direct helicopter service linked it with Penzance; true Scilly enthusiasts are now forced back to Bryher.

With each such surrender, a little diversity and a little choice disappear. Better by far to leave the islands as they are. Those who crave the kind of remote existence that they offer will positively enjoy queuing for the ferry, and those on Skye who do not like it are free to travel hopefully on the high road to England.

Rallying round prime minister

From Lord Renton, QC

Sir, Having known the prime minister since 1976, when he was chosen as prospective candidate for Huntingdonshire, which I had then represented for 31 years, I am deeply shocked by the heavily slanted and unfair impression given of him by this week's *Panorama* programme.

A great national broadcasting body should ensure that the character, personality and abilities of a prime minister, whatever his party, are not seriously distorted when shown to the world. Much more evidence was available of his fine qualities.

I myself was interviewed about him by the *Panorama* team for nearly an hour in March, and I answered all their questions fully and candidly, but they excluded my evidence altogether, even though I had known him longer and better than most of those who did appear on the programme.

One hopes that the viewers were so shocked by the bias displayed by this programme that they thought better of him than they were invited to think.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID RENTON,
House of Lords,
April 16.

From Viscount Watkinson, CH

Sir, Your correspondent Ronald Butt (April 15) puts his finger on it when he says that some right-wing Tories, mostly those who are not in parliament or who will be leaving it at the next election, have a death wish.

They should remember that the "devil take the hindmost" gloss that they placed on many of Mrs Thatcher's policies did much to undermine her position, as they now seek to undermine that of her successor.

"Pulling together instead of pulling apart", as advocated by John Major during the Gulf war, as it was by Winston Churchill in a rather larger conflict, is surely the right way to proceed for a government that seeks to serve the national interest.

I hope that the prime minister sticks to his guns and ignores vituperative comment from a minority on the far right, which is completely unrepresentative of the Conservative party.

WATKINSON,
Tyma House, Shore Road,
Bosham,
Chichester, West Sussex,
April 15.

From Mrs Alison Mayne

Sir, Why is it that people who are not elected representatives of the voters of this country and who used to hold positions of questionable responsibility under former political leaders are given so much media time and press coverage to express their views about those currently carrying out the difficult task of running the government?

ALISON MAYNE,
Flat 29, 61 Walton Street, SW3,
April 16.

Efficient farming

From Mrs Joanne Bower

Sir, Mr Anthony Rosen's letter on Prince Charles's proposal on nitrogen limitation (April 10) prompts the question, "what is efficient farming?" If indeed a restriction on the use of nitrogen, which has already caused so many problems, would "truly spell the end of Britain's agricultural industry", as Mr Rosen maintains, the crisis is even more desperate than we supposed.

However, if we regard agriculture as something more than an industry, we can perhaps be more optimistic. Fortunately not all our farmers have become so dependent on agro-chemicals as the highly intensive fraternity which Mr Rosen represents. Even the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is now having to re-think its policy.

It may well decide that Mr Aidan Harrison (April 8) is right, and that curbing the use of nitrogen is the only rational solution to over-production, pollution and importation of food. "Get aside", which Maff introduced as a panacea, has only resulted in more intensive use (including nitrogen) of the remaining acres and compounded the problem.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNE BOWER
(Honorary Secretary),
The Farm and Food Society,
4 Wilkfield Way, NW11.

Wrong pitch

From Mr Paul Pickerill

Sir, Which method does Dr Walkey (April 12) use to ascertain the notes produced by his seemingly homing bumble bees?

Is he blessed with perfect pitch, or does he have to compare the notes with those of a piano? If the latter, has he considered that it may not necessarily be the pitch of the bees that is sharpening, but rather, that of his piano flattening?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL PICKERILL
(Pipe organ builder),
Ja Sylvia Avenue,
West Heath, Birmingham B31,
April 13.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Worship, ancient and modern, at Canterbury today

From the Reverend Alan Cooke

Sir, The letter from the Reverend John H. Barter (April 13) clearly shows one of the disquieting features of the charismatic movement: the tendency to treat non-charismatic Christians as somehow less committed to Jesus Christ and the Gospel. This, together with the tendentious hijacking of the name of Christianity by evangelicals and charismatics, makes for a type of Christianity which has dangerous affinities with the Pharisees and the Gnostics.

No group of Christians has a monopoly on God, on Jesus Christ or on the Holy Spirit; nor can it be safely implied, as charismatics often seem to imply, that the Holy Spirit was absent or inactive between the close of the apostolic age and the beginning of the charismatic movement.

The charismatics' interest in church growth and success is another disquieting feature. A religion which has as its centre the cross of Jesus and his invitation to his followers to take up the cross and follow him should surely not expect itself to be wildly popular.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN COOKE,
The Vicarage, Milne Street,
Chadderton,
Oldham, Greater Manchester,
April 13.

From the Archdeacon of Exeter

Sir, Mr John Barter is right to stress that the hallmark of a charismatic is not that he or she may clap or dance in the aisles, but total commitment to Jesus Christ.

The problem arises when charismatics assume that more traditional Christians, who do not find it natural or appropriate to express their faith, or engage in worship, in such an emotional manner, are deficient in devotion, obedience, and commitment.

When clergy of a charismatic persuasion adopt this stance, especially in rural areas where traditional practice is most likely to prevail, the divisions that can arise, both within the local church and the community as a whole, are often quite devastating.

In those circumstances the mission of the Church is damaged, and many Christian people are deeply hurt.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN RICHARDS,
12 The Close, Exeter, Devon,
April 15.

Stretched leadership

From Sir John Barnes

Sir, We have a new Archbishop of Canterbury, one for whom I feel great respect and admiration. But it is still sensible that the Primate of All England and the de facto head of the Anglican Communion should be directly responsible for ecclesiastical matters in a smallish corner of south-east England?

We shall be back to St Augustine. We shall be told that the Archbishop needs to be in touch with the grassroots and that he has suffragans to help him in the Canterbury

From Mr T. J. W. Barnard

Sir, Perhaps those who are displeased with the liturgy to be used at Dr Carey's enthronement may care to consider how modern some hymns in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* were in 1861, the year of publication — or were they already "old" but endowed, like Aphrodite, with perpetual modernity?

And if they regret that the organ will not be the only instrument to be used, why did Thomas Hardy lament the ousting of instruments used for generations in churches in worship by Victorian organs everywhere?

Yours faithfully,
T. J. W. BARNARD,
42 Priory Crescent, Chesham, Surrey,
April 13.

From Mr Norman Hart

Sir, Surely "popular music" in worship will have a genuine appeal to those who have no taste for traditional hymn tunes. Equally, an enthusiast for "Ancient and Modern" may not be comfortable with guitars and drums. The two music forms are not mutually exclusive.

They each attract different followings. What is of greater concern is the propensity of the charismatic practitioners to wave their arms in the air and generally disport themselves in order to show off their sincerity. This is precisely what Jesus was cautioning against so often in the Gospels.

Be careful not to make a show of religion before men... when you do some act of charity, do not announce it with a flourish of trumpets, as the hypocrites do in synagogues (Matthew 6:1-2).

Even more important, perhaps, is the real embarrassment caused by such public demonstrations to people of a quieter frame of mind who seek just to worship in peace.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN HART,
Ravenor House,
13 Culverdon Park Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
April 15.

From the Reverend Brian Nicholson

Sir, I suspect that Clifford Longley's article ("Why the church is wary of Carey", April 8) unwittingly points up the reasons for the continued decline in Anglican churchgoing. If the British people are voting with their feet, perhaps they are looking for modern Christians who will be "open, friendly and direct" and

diocese. We shall even, perhaps, be reminded that the Pope is Bishop of Rome.

But would it not be wiser to decouple the Primacy from the day-to-day affairs of a single diocese and to liberate the energies of the incumbent for full-time concentration on the national and international issues with which he must perforce be concerned and on which he will be called to exercise leadership?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BARNES,
Hampton Lodge,
Hurstpierpoint, Sussex,
April 14.

From Mr N. S. C. Rice

Sir, As well as the chalk streams (report, April 2; letters, April 6, 18), rivers holding migratory species of fish, namely sea-trout and salmon, are also in serious trouble. Populations have been declining for many years and some are now in a critical state.

Last year most of the rivers holding sea-trout were almost devoid of them. On the River Spey, once one of Scotland's most prolific salmon rivers, the run this year of spring fish for which it was famous appears to have failed almost completely.

The causes include attrition of adult fish by netting on the high seas and inshore, deterioration of the rivers by abatement and pollution and the introduction of disease and pollution from fish farms.

A coherent strategy is needed, including a commitment to ending netting of these species on the high seas and support for the Icelandic initiative for a multi-national buy-out of the Greenland and Faroe fisheries.

Yours faithfully,
N. S. C. RICE,
25 Wimpole Street, W1.

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enable them to know the love and power of Christ for themselves.

In 17 years of ministry I have yet to encounter "heavy emotionalism" in an Anglican service which even vaguely approximates to that of a one-day cricket crowd. Nor have I ever found speaking in tongues in church to be an "uncontrolled outburst". Nevertheless, if Christ is truly risen, then some "enthusiasm", in whatever sense, would seem an entirely appropriate response.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN NICHOLSON,
St John's Vicarage,
Evergreen Drive,
Colchester, Essex.

From Miss Debra-Lyn Powell

Sir, I feel it is necessary to rescue the term "evangelical" before it becomes completely debased by both Christians and the secular media. An evangelical believes in the full inspiration and infallibility of the Scriptures and their authority and sufficiency concerning salvation, doctrine and holy living.

Evangelicalism has nothing to do with a "free" form of worship, but everything to do with true, holy, joyful, reverent and sacrificial worship of God.

Yours faithfully,
DEBRA-LYN POWELL,
28 Wykeham Road,
Reading,
Berkshire,
April 15.

From Mr John Ewington

Sir, Five years ago I was privileged to attend the enthronement of Desmond Tutu in Cape Town. The service was straight out of Westminster Abbey or St Paul's. A robbed choir of boys (only one of whom was black) and men sang Parry's "I was glad" as the new archbishop made his entrance. The hymns were very traditional — "Praise to the holiest" — "We have a gospel to proclaim" (a fine 20th-century hymn) and others.

Suddenly a well-known black choir from Soweto sang a chorus in Xhosa, obviously familiar and easy to pick up. At the second refrain, the archbishop's wife, Leah, and her family began clapping in rhythm to the tune and within seconds it was taken up by the whole of that vast congregation, except for me!

I am a real "square" and was really quite horrified; but such was the power of this that very soon I too was clapping and joining in the singing. It was almost the highlight of the whole service. But soon we were back to the Bach and Elgar and Bacharach.

The choruses at Canterbury, I understand, form a very few minutes of the service. By contrast they will give a much greater significance to the traditional music which so many feel is appropriate to such an occasion, and which indeed will dominate the ceremonies.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EWINGTON
(General Secretary),
Guild of Church Musicians,
Hillbrow,
Bletchingley, Surrey,
April 15.

Water safeguards

From Mr N. S. C. Rice

Sir, As well as the chalk streams (report, April 2; letters, April 6, 18), rivers holding migratory species of fish, namely sea-trout and salmon, are also in serious trouble. Populations have been declining for many years and some are now in a critical state.

Last year most of the rivers holding sea-trout were almost devoid of them. On the River Spey, once one of Scotland's most prolific salmon rivers, the run this year of spring fish for which it was famous appears to have failed almost completely.

The causes include attrition of adult fish by netting on the high seas and inshore, deterioration of the rivers by abatement and pollution and the introduction of disease and pollution from fish farms.

A coherent strategy is needed, including a commitment to ending netting of these species on the high seas and support for the Icelandic initiative for a multi-national buy-out of the Greenland and Faroe fisheries.

Yours faithfully,
N. S. C. RICE,
25 Wimpole Street, W1.

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Wowing 'em in the aisles: Margaret Hewitt is concentrating her attack on the laity

Playing female lead in the new church farce

Kate Muir meets Dr Margaret Hewitt, forceful campaigner against the ordination of women, who sees dark days ahead

Enthroned on her velvet-covered chaise longue, Dr Margaret Hewitt is about to dish the dirt on the new Archbishop of Canterbury, himself enthroned today. As the president of Women Against the Ordination of Women (WOW), she is less than pleased with his recent behaviour — describing her, and her kind, as “heretics”. And however much Dr Carey tries to recast his rash words, it will not satisfy her.

You would not want to be in the Carey dog collar as Dr Hewitt goes for a Lady Bracknell-style direct hit. “It is unfortunate,” she booms, “that he has behaved in such a curiously inept way. Heresy is a serious word, and he did not use it correctly in the first place to describe those who opposed women priests. I thought to myself: ‘Has he considered the implications of using this word?’ By it, he is condemning 2,000 years and two-thirds of Christendom, something even a first-year theology student would not do.”

Formidable is too weak a word to describe Dr Hewitt in full flow. At 62, she is part of

that headmistress, hand-bagging generation which treats men as though they were troublesome puppies. Indeed, her faithful handbag sits at her feet in her Exeter semi, as though she were the Queen, forced to carry it everywhere for fear of being a quarter of a mile away from her palace bedroom. Splendidly, she refers to this bag as her “reticule”.

Dr Hewitt is a leading Anglo-Catholic in the Church of England, and does not take kindly to modern innovations such as rewritten prayer books, electronic organs and women priests. Does she think, then, that the charismatic Dr Carey will split the church asunder? “Ooh, good gracious me, no! I mean the splits were always there, and I don’t hold the view that if one person makes an error of judgment, the whole church is going to collapse like a pack of cards.”

She does, however, predict dark days ahead, particularly

over women’s ordination. The legislation allowing women priests will go to the General Synod in 1992, and must be passed by a two-thirds majority by the separate Houses of Bishops, Clergy and Laity. Apart from a few rogue

‘It is unfortunate that Dr Carey has behaved in such a curiously inept way’

groups, the Houses of Bishops and Clergy are almost beyond redemption as far as blocking women’s ordination is concerned, but there is still a rump of traditionalists in the Laity keeping support just below the essential two-thirds. So WOW is concentrating its campaign on the pew-follower, and claims to be finding

unexpected depths of division around the country.

With 5,500 members, all women, WOW is now outstripping the rival Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW), which has a mixed membership. The 1,500 priests in the Cost of Conscience movement have threatened to leave the main church if women are ordained, and legislation will allow them to do so. They predict religious “no-go areas”, where traditionalist bishops and priests will work in a parallel women-free church. Although not quite Beirut, the divide does worry Dr Hewitt. “Once you say it is perfectly all right to doubt the validity of a priest’s orders, then I don’t see how you can keep the church together. It will be a farce.”

A farce featuring Dr Carey in the leading role, much to the delight of Dr Hewitt and many other members of the Church of England. For secretly they rather like the new archbishop, not despite his runaway tongue, but because of it. Unlike Robert Runcie, who thought long and hard about what to say, and then said very little, Dr Carey just goes for it. “He’s not a clasp-happy archbishop, you know. I’d say he was more evangelical, although the press will emphasise the charismatic part. You see, here is a man who is genuinely interested in a lot of areas of the church, who talks publicly, doing things which occasionally get him a clip on the ear.”

Or, in Dr Hewitt’s case, the equally scary raised eyebrow — her reaction to the archbishop’s other little slip-up when he described the Church of England as “an elderly lady muttering ancient platitudes through toothless gums”. Sharp intake of breath. “Tut, tut, tut. Dear, dear, dear,” I thought. “She shakes her head as though saddened by a naughty schoolchild. “Of

course, my WOW-ites were far from pleased about that. There are a lot of old ladies among them, and they did not appreciate that. In fact one might say it was slightly chauvinistic, or sexist.”

Those are not words you expect a member of WOW to use, for its aim is to combat “misplaced feminism” in theology and worship. Apparently, feminism gets misplaced when people begin the Lord’s Prayer with “Our Father and Mother, who are...”, and refer to God as “She”. Otherwise it is just fine by Dr Hewitt, who describes herself as a feminist, and even teaches a course in women’s studies at Exeter university, where she is a reader in social institutions. She also takes part in the Synod, and chairs a working group on women in the Church of England.

Christianity, she says, is a patriarchal religion. “It did not just spring out of the ground. What I’d say to all this ‘her’ and ‘she’ business is, ‘WOW, invent a different religion, but don’t claim it’s Christian.’” WOW’s position is that the tradition of having only men as priests should continue, since the apostolic tradition is part of the theology of the Church of England. Its members believe the priest, as a man, represents the presence of Christ when he consecrates the elements and gives absolution and blessing, and that a woman cannot do that. Passages from the Bible can be cited for the theory, and against it. Like statistics, scripture is malleable.

The unmaffable Dr Hewitt, however, intends to take her grievances with her to the grave. She thinks it likely the laity will block women priests next year, but the legislation will be referred back to Synod every five years, until eventually it gets through. “Well, I actually intend to be scattered to the winds, but if I was in my box, every time the subject of women priests came up, I would rattle around.”

Young, gifted and critical

Teenagers are contentious, finicky and demanding, especially as reviewers

CATHERINE, aged 15, did not think much of *The Winter’s Tale* and puts the blame squarely on Shakespeare for creating Leontes. “No sane person could ever give credence to a man who, in one evening, can turn from a deeply loving husband and father... to a paranoid wreck. Moreover, the English Shakespeare Company did not help by introducing an exploding Perspex egg ‘reminiscent of Mark and Mindy’.”

Meanwhile Peter from Wiltshire was watching television in a state of robust irritation and concluding that Denis Norden “could improve his presentational techniques by trying not to talk and laugh at the same time”. Jonathan from Norfolk was slating *Grange Hill* (“none of the pupils are ever shown to be doing any work in the classroom”); and Katharine from Blackheath, at 14, was putting her finger on the shortcomings of the first act of *The Crucible* at the National Theatre. “The stage was too crowded, the voices unvaried, all the sadness and double meanings were totally lost. So it was, I am sorry to say, with great relief that I slipped down the aisle for a strawberry split.”

Say what you like about the education system, the next generation of contentious, finicky, demanding critics is well on its way. We shall not run out of derisive TV reviewers, nor will the arts establishment be able to pull the wool over anyone’s eyes in the 21st century. If a director insists on introducing “raspberries in track-suits” to Shakespeare, or performing *The Tempest* “entirely on a huge mirror”, he will have to justify his excesses all the way. As one youth gloomily observed: “*Twelfth Night* begins and ends with music, the significance of which I cannot be sure.”

These are the young critics, 14 to 16-year-olds at schools from Cornwall to Aberdeenshire, who submitted 600-word reviews to the Royal Insurance Young Critic Award. Only half as many schools entered in 1991 as in the previous

year, which depressingly confirms the cutback in state school theatre-going.

But 96 schools entered, ranging from comprehensive (several of which made the shortlist) to Eton College (which did not). (It is worth recording that from the 70-odd which I read as a judge, I discovered no infallible way of distinguishing an independent school pupil’s language, spelling or insight from a state school child’s.)

They are a fascinating snapshot of how the GCSE generation confronts the performing arts. Only a fifth chose television; most were sitting, as generations have sat, in the stalls or plastic chairs of the nearest theatre, stirred into excitement, empathy and floods of purple bathos. Reading them, one remembers the extraordinary sense of occasion generated by first trips to the theatre.

The best reviews were a joy. A few were so confidently flip that one recognised, with sinking gloom, that the authors will have their own slot on *Loose Ends* by 1995. Many showed astonishing emotional maturity, in handling such topics as Oscar Wilde’s arrest or the pain of a dying marriage. He did not make the shortlist, but I still remember the Coventry boy who went to the commemoration of the city’s bombing. He was impressed by the searchlights, sirens and Vera Lynn songs, then suddenly overcome by honest disgust at the crowd’s vacant watching faces around him — “a travesty of the suffering experienced by millions of innocents”.

Above all, the best reviews had that tender, unflippant, self-forgetful appreciation which alone can turn criticism into more than a parasitic life-form. “The sound of the artist, responding to art,” said one judge. One can only hope that school theatre-going, torpedoed last year by budgets, curricular pressures and new regulations on parental payment, will revive. Otherwise, what will they have to respond to?

LIBBY PURVES

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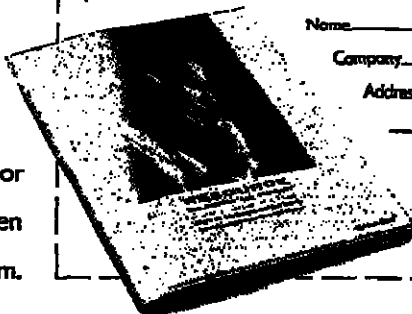
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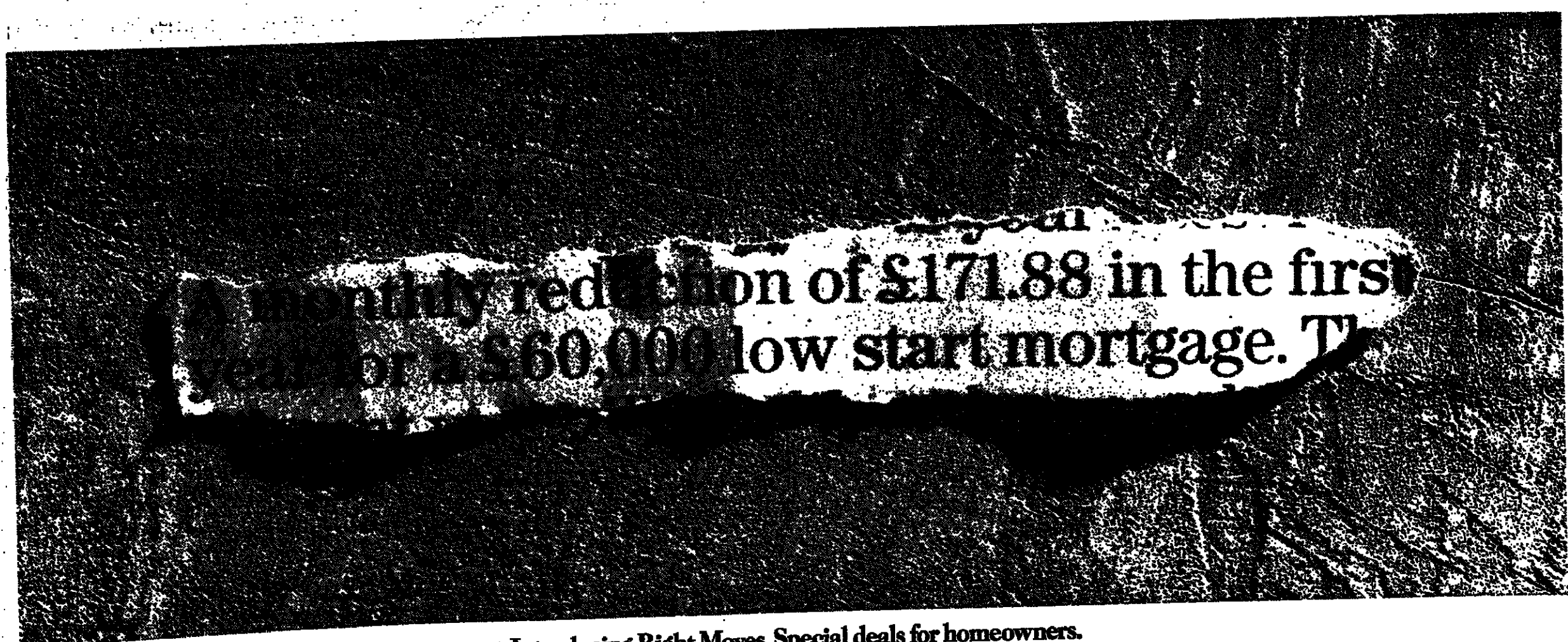
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CINEMA HISTORY

Hard hitter reaches his half-century

Citizen Kane is 50 years old next month. David Robinson tells the story behind the making of Orson Welles' film masterpiece

These days, *Citizen Kane* is regularly voted the greatest film of all time in critical polls across the world. Fifty years ago at the RKO studios they had just finished the picture, and were wishing they had never begun it. In the spring of 1941, Orson Welles' first film looked like nothing but trouble. Considerable secrecy had surrounded the production, so only after the film was finished did anyone wake up to the dangerous similarities between Welles' fictional Charles Foster Kane and America's most powerful newspaper baron, William Randolph Hearst.

Kane's rise to political influence through the manipulations of his yellow-press empire was very close to Hearst's life story. Hearst had built and furnished San Simeon, a vast palace in rashly eclectic architectural styles. In the film, Kane builds Xanadu, with rooms brazenly styled after Hearst's home. Hearst had used all his

influence to persuade RKO to withdraw the film. Louis B. Mayer of MGM, an old friend and associate of Hearst, organised a consortium of Hollywood executives who offered to buy the picture from RKO so that it could be destroyed.

Fortunately they did not succeed. RKO and its head, George J. Schaefer, refused to be intimidated. On the advice of lawyers, a few minor cuts were made to scenes where the dialogue seemed too close to real incidents from Hearst's life. A version cleared by lawyers was ready by mid-February. Meanwhile the Hearst press was running smear stories about RKO, Schaefer and Welles. Under the pressures, Radio City Music Hall, where the premiere had been planned, pulled out of the agreement. Other exhibitors in turn refused to show the film. Schaefer endeavoured to disarm opposition and allay fears by inviting celebrities to a series of previews throughout March. He even sent a print of the film to Hearst, but Hearst's reaction is not known. Some of the legends say that he was amused; others that the film cans were returned with the seals unbroken. Not until May 1, 1941 did RKO finally succeed in finding a New York cinema to screen the film. The Hearst press continued to refuse advertising for any RKO film, though they desisted from *Citizen Kane* and its maker.

The reviews were enthusiastic: even then one critic was bold enough to call it "one of the outstanding films of all time". *Citizen Kane* was voted best film of the year by the New York Film Critics and the National Board of Review. There was therefore considerable surprise when, with nine nominations, it won only one Oscar, for its screenplay. Hollywood politics were at work.

Box office returns, too, were disappointing. Many exhibitors succumbed to Hearst pressure and refused to show the film. Outside the big cities audiences were unenthusiastic. The film was ahead of its time and the taste of the public. After its first brief run, *Citizen Kane* virtually disappeared from view for 15 years. Its rediscovery and apotheosis began in the late Fifties. In 1952, when the venerable British film magazine *Sight and Sound* published the first of its decennial critical polls of the world's best films, *Citizen Kane* was not in the Top Ten. By 1962 it had overtaken *Battleship Potemkin* and *Bicycle Thieves* to head the list. It has never since been ousted from top place in this and almost every other international poll.

Do Welles and his troubled



Aspects of a newspaper baron's life: scenes from *Citizen Kane*, for which tycoon William Randolph Hearst was regarded as the principal model



Welles was fortunate in finding designers, special effects experts and a great photographer, as well as actors, who were sufficiently fired by his own enthusiasm to devise solutions to his extravagant and extraordinary demands. Kane's incomparable, unforgettable images were, in many cases, achieved by technical means never tried before. It was a supreme example of team work; but in the end the team's task was to realise the single inspiration of Welles himself.

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Do Welles and his troubled

masterpiece deserve this persistent reputation? Recently the Everyman Cinema mounted a season of comparison between Welles' own films as director and actor and the work of his key collaborators — the writer Herman J. Mankiewicz, the photographer Gregg Toland and the composer Bernard Herrmann — for other directors.

Each undoubtedly made an extraordinary contribution to *Kane*. Mankiewicz was a wayward talent whose career had been practically ended by alcoholism by the time he worked with Welles. A school of archaeological criticism has attempted to give him the credit for the brilliant, elliptical script; but Professor Robert Carringer's *The Making of Citizen Kane* proves Welles' own commanding role.

Welles was fortunate in finding designers, special effects experts and a great photographer, as well as actors, who were sufficiently fired by his own enthusiasm to devise solutions to his extravagant and extraordinary demands. Kane's incomparable, unforgettable images were, in many cases, achieved by technical means never tried before. It was a supreme example of team work; but in the end the team's task was to realise the single inspiration of Welles himself.

Even so, one man deserves special, indeed unique credit for the existence of *Citizen Kane*. The RKO chief George Schaefer's unwavering support of Welles and Kane was eventually to cost him his own job. It had been Schaefer's idea to bring the boy genius (Welles was 25 when he made *Kane*) to Hollywood. Welles had made his

name in New York in experimental theatre and radio, and had startled America with a radio production of *The War of the Worlds* so realistic that people ran for the streets.

Welles had never made a film, but Schaefer ignored sceptics and critics to give him large budgets and creative freedom. He saw him through two abortive projects and defended Welles against the executives as Kane's budgets soared. He negotiated the Hearst affair, and the box-office disappointments. Even then he still had courage enough to embark on another Welles project, *The Magnificent Ambersons*, that was to bring greater disasters. Hollywood executives rarely get the praise of history; but in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of *Citizen Kane* it is right to remember this unsung hero.

RECORDS: ROCK

Moyet mixes to match as usual

Alison Moyet: Hoodoo (Columbia 468272-2)
Mickey Jupp: As the Years Go By (On The Beach FOAMCD 2)
Green On Red: Scapegoats (China WOLCD 1001)

ANOTHER long lay-off, another new baby and another ex-husband? — a virtually identical sequence of events to those which preceded the release of Alison Moyet's last album, *Raindancing*, in 1987. The difference this time is that, instead of submitting her great voice to a balmy mélange of fibre-free pop, she has injected some of the personal melodrama into the music and moods of *Hoodoo*.

Her vocal range is best served by "This House", a *vi de coeur* that begins in the lower registers and then soars and dips like a clipper caught in turbulent seas. ("Meeting with My Main Man" is an uptempo rocker with Moyet casting herself as the Janis Joplin of the suburbs, a heavy lovin' mama who knows what she wants, and who betrays any man who fails to give her enough of it.)

The frying pans fly during a blues-wailing feminist rant called "Rise", a funky, Mardi-Gras spirit informs "Footsteps", and the album is nicely rounded off by the following gospel finale of "Find me". *Hoodoo* is, then, another of Moyet's famed stylistic mish-mashes, but one which proceeds at all times with a firm thrust.

Mickey Jupp is best remembered for his participation in the Stiff Records tour of 1978, although he has actually been



Melodramatic: Moyet

loitering on the sidelines of English rock since the early Sixties. A veteran of the R'n'B mafia that includes Dr Feelgood, Dave Edmunds and Nick Lowe among its ranks, he brings considerable experience and panache to bear on his latest scintillating collection, *As the Years Go By*.

The album is a delight. From the infectious opening chug of "Standing at the Crossroads Again" to the sardonic country and western philosophising of "Funny Old World", Jupp combines spry wordplay with a shuffling, down-at-heel gait to produce a strain of bar-room roots-rock worthy of the gods. He sings in his skin, blues-toughened drawl, and this album lifts the spirits like a stiff drink.

"A twisted tale from the cynical heart of America" is the dramatic slogan advertising *Green On Red's* *Scapegoats*. But despite the sombre imagery on the cover, and song titles such as "Two Lovers (Waiting to Die)" and "Gold in the Graveyard", this is a remarkably mellow album for a band which has long been renowned for the sociopathological tendencies of its music. Having mixed the cocktail with a greater ratio of country to rock than in the past, there is a noticeable "Aw-shucks" factor creeping in, especially on the single "Little Things in Life", which positively glows with warmth. It will be a tougher story on stage when the group's tour opens next Tuesday at the Zap Club in Brighton.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CINEMA: INTERVIEW

No fantasies permitted behind the prison bars

Verina Glaessner meets the Soviet film director who holds a mirror to harsh reality



Volodya Kozyrev as Sacha with Svetlana Gaitina

Sergei Bodrov speaks frankly: "In the last 70 years we have made quite a practice of imprisoning people." His *Freedom is Paradise* (released in Britain today) is the remarkable film that took the prize at this year's Forum at the Berlin Film Festival. Portraying the search of a 13-year-old prison escapee for his father, it is a quietly shocking account of the daily life of his young protagonist and the almost equally bleak lives of those with whom he comes into contact.

When I met Bodrov in Moscow, he had just finished the film and was still bound up in it although, characteristically, the script for his next, *Katana* (*The Gambler*), was already written.

Born in Khabarovsk, at the easternmost extreme of the Soviet Union, Bodrov moved to Moscow when he was 15 to study engineering. Dropping out of college, he took odd jobs before becoming a prolific scriptwriter and contributing to the satirical magazine, *Krokodil*.

While looking for performers for his first solo effort as a director, *Non-Professionals*, Bodrov conceived the idea of making a film about a child in prison. For *Non-Professionals*, a story of institutionalised youth visiting an old people's home, he had found performers in a special school in Alma Ata, and "as I learnt more about them I became very moved by their plight."

"I spend a lot of time with prisoners, both children and adults, in the south where the real boy, Grigoriev, is serving his sentence, and in the north, in Archangel, where the boy finds his father in a strict-regime prison for hardened offenders. A lot of people were imprisoned there during Sta-

lin's time and the material conditions of life are still very hard."

Volodya Kozyrev, who plays the boy, Sacha, is in reality also a young offender and the authorities needed a little persuasion to allow him to participate in the film. His own story is almost as poignant as that of the character he plays. "He has no father. His mother is an alcoholic and he was imprisoned for theft."

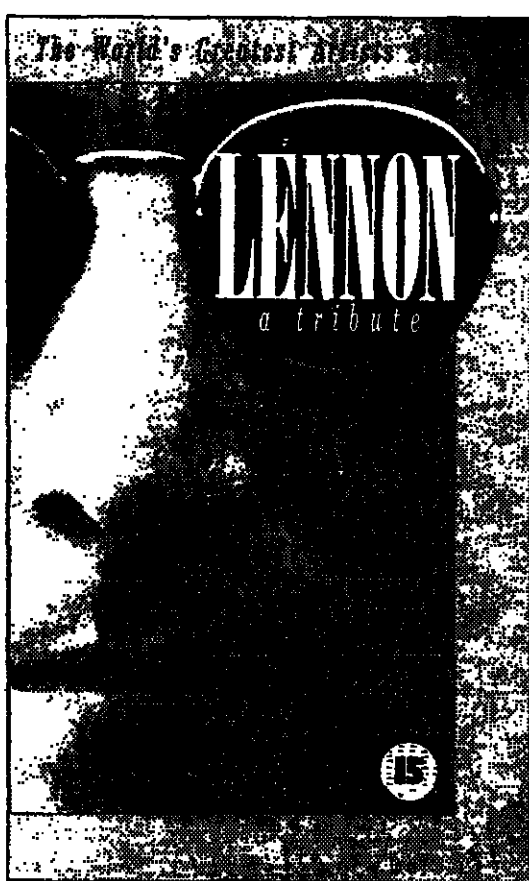
The stories on which the script is based are also true, not for authenticity's sake but out of respect for individual lives. "Making the film was harder than I could have imagined. Although there was

no political or bureaucratic interference — in fact we were the first crew to be allowed to film in these prisons — there was no question of feeling free to do what I liked. Every day we were in touch with people who were at that moment living in prison. As the project progressed, it became obvious that the film had to be a modest one. There had to be no fantasy, nothing."

Bodrov's work has generally been better received abroad than at home. This may be connected with the rigid career structures still existing in Soviet cinema: the teachers of film often determine how one's work is received. "Some critics here," Bodrov says, "have found *Paradise* a very American film. Of course I would like to make American films, but I am Russian and I live in Russia and we have a different life."

Freedom is Paradise opens today at the Kenner cinema, Brunswick Square, London (071-837 8402).

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GALLERIES

Northerners can be magnetic

Wherein lies the essence of Canadian artistic expression? John Russell Taylor finds some clues at two Barbican shows

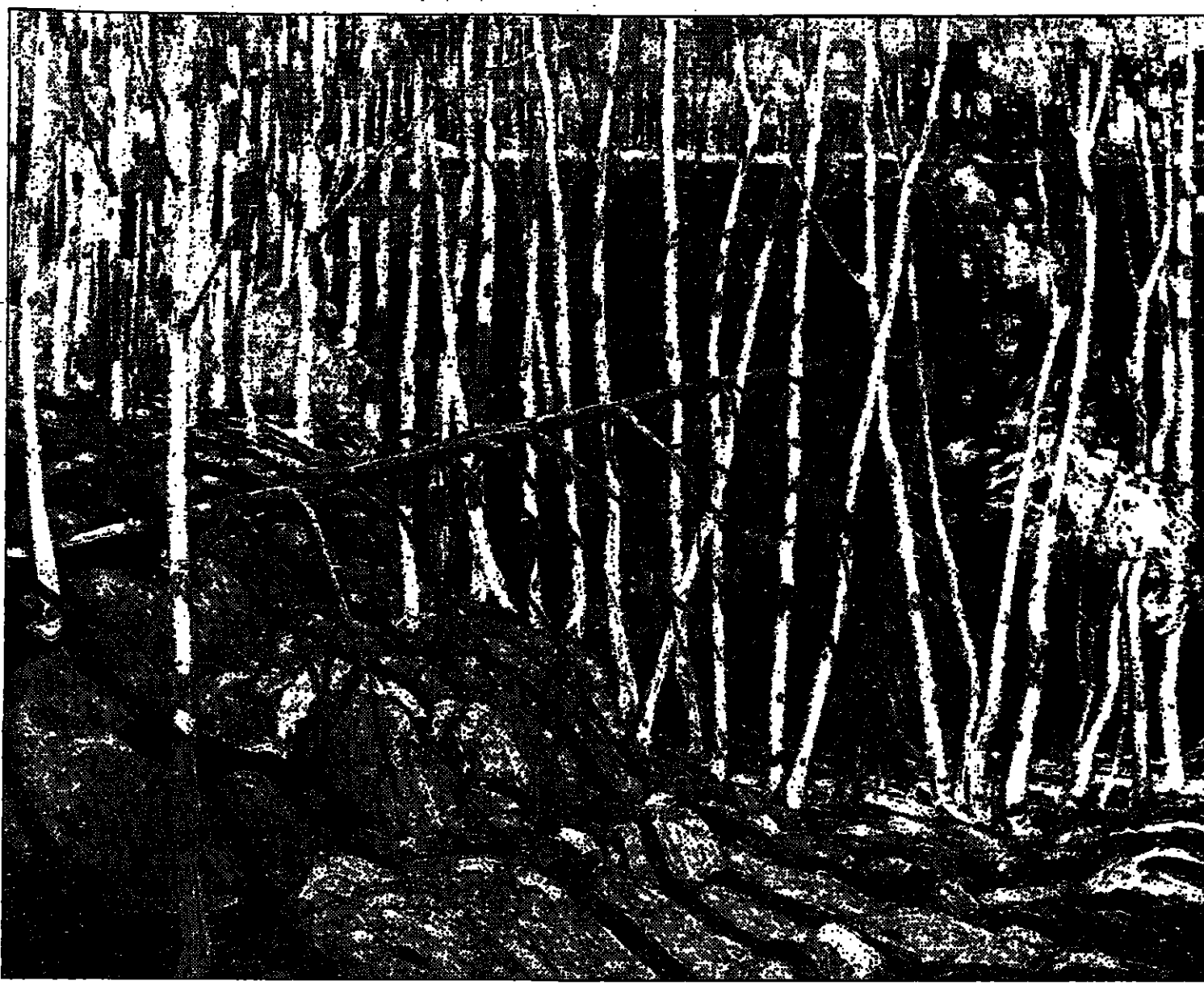
According to the critic Northrop Frye, "The question of Canadian identity, so far as it affects the creative imagination, is not a 'Canadian' question at all, but a regional question." Frye, writing in 1971, suggested that if an artist from one Canadian province worked in another he could respond to it only as an "imaginative foreigner". That may still be one of the problems besetting Canadian art, but as these two shows, *The True North* and *Un-Natural Traces*, demonstrate, it has never been the only one.

"The True North" is a survey of Canadian landscape painting from 1896 to 1939. Canadians throughout this century have seemed intensely conscious of a need to establish national identity, as separate from the British and French colonial heritages and the looming proximity of the United States. In 1914 Eric Brown, then director of the National Gallery of Canada, wrote to the artist C.W. Jefferys: "Canada must nationalise her landscape before it is of any consequence."

Though it was some time until the very term nationalism came under suspicion, it cannot have seemed quite that easy to the generation of artists coming up in 1914. It was not that they were without national exemplars: J.W. Morrice, still probably the best-known abroad of the classic Canadian artists, had already achieved fame in Europe as a sensitive and individual follower of Whistler.

But he had lived in Europe since 1889, and came back to visit his family about once a year, usually in winter. Consequently, most of his Canadian paintings are glamorous snow-scenes: the work of an imaginative foreigner indeed. All the same, they look Canadian because a Canadian look in painting is bound up with content: snow, extraordinary Arctic skies, the spectacular hues of Canadian woodlands in the fall. When the Group of Seven began exhibiting together regularly in the Twenties, they at first obliterated their varied origins by assuming a dazzling Post-Impressionist palette so consistently that they cannot easily be identified separately. The obvious inference is that this put into practice some carefully devised manifesto.

The facts are less neat: the Seven



Typically Canadian, typically glamorous? In the Northland, a 1915 oil painting by Tom Thomson, from "The True North" at the Barbican

were a group of friends with little deliberate common policy until it was invented for them by outsiders. Many shared stylistic traits can be traced to what was then in the air, and to the shapes and colours which were presented each day to their astonished gaze.

So it is not difficult to find parallels between their landscape work and contemporary Scandinavian and Icelandic painters, and between various painters from south of the border who ventured north in search of adventure: Rockwell Kent, for instance. Indeed, mutual mistrust must largely be the reason why Canadian and United States painting are so seldom considered together.

But the development of the modern movement in North America makes more sense if Canadian and American painters are considered together. Moreover, the search

for Canadianness tends to devalue the intense individuality of some of the painters concerned. Emily Carr, who painted mainly to please herself, has an immediately recognisable style of painting woods as though they are alive with spirits, which links her to the international Symbolists.

There is ample opportunity, too, to assess Lauren Harris, who perhaps carried prismatic colours and the bold simplification of form to its Deco limits. There is also a good showing of Lionel LeMoine Fitzgerald, whose landscapes of the Thirties have a coolness and crisp elegance which suggests the German painters of the *Neue Sachlichkeit*. *The Pool* (just a handful of rushes against the water) achieves an almost Japanese austerity. And David Milne, so unlike anyone that

it makes little difference where he worked, stands out in the final room, with his extraordinary technique of using little broken lines of pure colour on expanses of white.

After that, what? Skipping several generations, "Un-Natural Traces", the show downstairs, takes up the story of Canadian responses to landscape in our own day. The picture of what has happened meanwhile, presented in the catalogue's introduction, is hardly encouraging. Neurosis, Bruce W. Ferguson suggests, has been the predominant state of mind, fuelled by worries about being colonised and/or patronised.

This might be expected to produce edgy and exciting art, but it has not. There is surely no reason these days why new art ideas should percolate so slowly through to Canada, yet most of what is in this show seems painfully dated. Politics

may be the culprit: Canadian representation abroad appears to have been hijacked by a particular narrow interest. Certainly there is much more interesting contemporary art to be seen in Canada than ever comes out of it.

The photographers dutifully picturing monster new houses in the suburbs, the installation-makers gathering together the all-natural (and somewhat decayed) constituents of an "earth wagon", the purveyors of dreary video, even the unfortunate who has to make Jana Sterbak's wooden construction lumber round the room in *Sisyphus*, all seem to be labouring to be terribly modern, and labouring in vain.

The True North/Un-Natural Traces Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-588 9023). Mon, Wed-Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tues 10am-5.45pm, Sun 12am-6.45pm, until June 16. Admission £4, concs £2.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Migratory flock takes to the wing

Hilary Finch meets members of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe

Having reached its tenth anniversary year with three international residencies, an armful of recording contracts, six recent television programmes devoted to it, and scarcely a negative review in its files, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe has just two worries. It energetically denies any relationship with the European Community, and it hates being remembered as a youth orchestra.

In fact, the COE aspires to the condition of the little red wader which is its logo: sharp-nosed, migratory and ever on the wing. The band did hatch out of the European Community Youth Orchestra. In 1981, 35 players - fast approaching that orchestra's upper age limit of 23 - decided to stay together and found their own chamber ensemble. With encouragement from Claudio Abbado and business acumen from Peter Readman (now COE's chairman), that dream came true. Now the average age is 30, and the orchestra's annual turnover exceeds £1 million a year. Any financial bonding with the EC is rejected: partly because members choose members, and membership extends well beyond EC-land to Austria, Sweden, Hungary, Australia and the United States. Neither has the COE ever accepted direct public subsidy.

That independence extends to the individual players' careers. Many players have developed chamber and solo careers which the orchestra is bound to respect. In return for six months of their working lives, the band is happy to function on the fine tuning of 50 diaries.

An extraordinary loyalty is born out of the balance. Principals leave their posts with such illustrious ensembles as the Berlin Philharmonic to join the COE. Diemut Poppen, principal viola who is in demand throughout Europe as a soloist, told me that "playing in any other orchestra is simply frustrating once you've played in this one."

Nikolaus Harnoncourt, who conducts the COE's two Beethoven concerts tomorrow and Monday, marvels at its "unique combination of professionalism and total lack of routine. Elsewhere you find one or the other: never the two together."

Abbado and Harnoncourt are the COE's two guiding, and entirely complementary, spirits. Abbado, almost totally non-verbal, yet minutely eloquent with the baton, works with gentle receptivity to the members' own input. Harnoncourt, sometimes frustratingly ambiguous with the baton, invigorates the players' imaginations by creating a verbal image per bar. The Beethoven symphonies recorded live with him during a suitably shocked Hohenems Schubertiade last summer, work like paint-stripper on the varnish of routine. Is the COE just a phenomenon lasting ten years? There are certainly problems ahead, one being the orchestra's London profile. The Barbican is the only venue of the right size and, thanks to the City of London's three-year planning, it has adequate financial underpinning.

But experience has shown that, if the COE continues to present programmes that are challenging enough to its own players, the box-office take is simply not good enough. Even Survivinsky and Britten conducted by Rozhddestvensky drew scarcely a 30-per-cent house.

The tours, an essential part of the COE's identity, and so eagerly embarked on by players in their twenties, could also prove difficult to a middle-aged orchestra beginning to crave a personal and professional home base. The United States, though, is inked in for 1993, and Harnoncourt will go with them and there is talk of a possible residency in Prague.

● The Chamber Orchestra of Europe plays at the Barbican, London EC2 (071-638 8891), tomorrow, Monday and on April 26 and 29.

INSIDE VIEW The first one-man show organised by the National Trust's Foundation for Art is devoted to the interiors of Edmund Fairfax-Lucy, mostly painted in his home at Chalcote Park, Edmund Fairfax-Lucy Mompesson House, The Close, Salisbury (0722 335659). Sat to Wed 12am-5.30pm, until October 31.

CANADA AGAIN Jack Bush is known chiefly for his later abstractions. But the Canadian landscapes from 1909 to 1932 suggest he was more interesting earlier on.

Jack Bush 1909-1977 Bourne Fine Art, 14 Mason's Yard, London SW1 (071-930 4215). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, until May 14.

ROOMS WITHOUT VIEWS Painting roomscapes has been a regular occupation of British artists since the 18th century. This show gathers together a variety of unpeopled rooms, from Turner to Farthing.

The Absent Presence Jeffrey M. Museum, Kingsland Road, London E2 (071-759 1883). Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, until June 2.

SEAFARING GREEKS As far away

as the Russian steppes, the Greeks have travelled and traded since ancient times. This show, associated with a scholarly conference, includes 19th-century church altars.

The Greeks in the Black Sea King's College, The Strand, London WC2 (071-673 2800). Mon-Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 2-5pm, until April 28.

ITALIAN REFLECTIONS The whole career of the 17th-century Dutch painter Adam Pynacker in just ten paintings. Pynacker visited Italy and painted mainly fanciful landscapes inspired by the experience.

Adam Pynacker Richard L. Feigen, 6 Ryder Street, London SW1 (071-930 0020). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, until June 7.

WANDERING ARTIST Eugen Dragutescu comes originally from Romania but has been based in Italy since 1940. His brilliantly economical landscape drawings attest to his frequent travelling since.

Eugen Dragutescu Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, London SW7 (071-225 3474). Tues-Sat 10am-6.30pm, Wed to 8pm, Sun 2-5.30pm, until May 4.

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TV

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Channel 4 Daily
6.25 Whispering Ghosts (1942, b/w) Dim-witted comedy thriller in which Helen Blair plays the naive detective trying to solve the murder of a ship captain. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock
10.50 The Story of the Foolish Husband Cartoon from the Soviet Union
11.00 Cloudwaker Jeff Lowe attempts to climb the 5,000th northeastern face of Moose's Tooth near Mount McKinley in Alaska (F)
12.00 The Parliament Programme
12.30 Business Daily presented by Susannah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street Educational entertainment for pre-school children
2.00 The Long Goodbye A new production with Jay Cocksine, looking back at his long public career (F)
2.30 Women in a Dressing Gown (1957, b/w). Strongly acted, British drama starring Yvonne Mitchell as a scatty and distracted housewife whose degenerated ways have apparently driven her husband, Anthony Quayle, to have an affair with younger woman, Sylvia Syms. Directed by J. Lee Thompson
4.15 Overmorrow and The Hourglass Two animations
4.30 Fifteen-to-One Fast-paced quiz show
5.00 I Love Lucy (b/w) Vintage American comedy starring Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz
5.30 Sumo Japanese wrestling
6.00 Kite & Allie. American sitcom (F)
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. Tonight's guests include the actor, John Gielgud who has triumphed on- & off-screen since *State's 7*
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) Weather
7.50 The A - Z of Censorship. It is for...?
8.00 Brookside (Teletext)
8.30 Short Stories: Kurdistan to Green Lanes

At 10.00, the networking happened in the snug hotel room. The first to speak was the author of the book, Ian Gowan, who has been making his documentary about some Kurdish refugees from Turkey who, since 1999 have been living in northeast London. Gowan is a former student at the National Film School, specialising in documentaries. This has given him a journalist's eye, and he turns it out effectively on the screen. He has a sensitive feel for the dilemmas and predicaments are synthesised in the story of Ali Yildemur who, with his brother's family, fled to Britain, leaving his wife and four children behind. Gowan could have chosen to write tears from us. Either that or light fires of anti-Turkish feeling in our consciences. But he does not. There is a certain respect for the British people who are less despair and comfort found naturally in front of his camera.

(Telexat)

9.00 Clocks: Wedding Bell Blues. (Telexat)


9.30 Dig
CH CHOICE As subtle as a blow on the head from a sledgehammer, the opening shots of Carolyn Kiser's new gardening series tell us that there's more to her than anything quite like this on television before. A housewife simply replaces the old fresco band conductor's baton, and a garden rake displaces his music stand. Constans wears guitars, and their wellies are flower-pots. Cartoonist-gardener Ralph Steadman devises a novel way of spreading compost, he uses explosives, which bestow the additional benefit of leaving the beauty off his hands, and he tells the negative the fact that he's not a member of the Belsen Belongs. Given the programme's anarchy nature, Mike Butts' mini-culture on cammious flora leads naturally into clips from a strange film called *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes* and Grahame Smith's collection of revolting plants make us grateful that the ill-fated Smell-o-vision experiment in the cinema was never tried out again on television (Teletext)

10.00 Roseanne Widescreen comedy series (Teletext)

11.00 **Banned: Dancing With the Devil** Emma Barker's documentary examines the debate between the rock music industry and Christian fundamentalists, some of whom believe that the music is a moral and mental health hazard

12.00 **Banned: Jubilee** (1977) Derek Jarman's bleak, shocking, and at the same time darkly amusing, portrait of post-apocalyptic punk England.

1.55am **Sumo** (r) Ends at 2.25



100

**8:00 GUN 9.00 US Pro Bowling 10:30 NAB, Inc.
Hockey 12:30am Pro Box 2:30 News Start
Musical 4:30 World Wrestling Saturday 6:30
Tropen Bowling**

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11:50 Sim Cinema 12:15pm Sky
Jenny Breen 1:05 Sun Time 1:10 Show
For Tomorrow 1:35 The Edge of Night 2:50
Diverse Court 2:25 Ife Sun Times 2:35
The Grand News Show 3:05 Saturday's News
3:55 Ice Break 4:05 Pyrite 4:35
German Cinema German Shows
The Safe-
Value Shopping Programmes 6:00 Close
Programmes Shopping Programmes
12:00 Satellite Journal


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12:00am The World of Rock and Pop

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Fate of hostages dictates Western response

Continued from page 1

impossibility of organising military-style operations on Iran's sovereign territory.

But there is no doubt that the fate of the hostages is a significant element which has influenced Western responses to the point of treating the Kurdish exodus as if it were only a problem for Turkey.

In contrast to the Turks, who have sometimes behaved roughly towards those trying to escape, Iran has been generous and accommodating to twice as many refugees. One European ambassador, reflecting on the British and American response, or lack of it, towards Iran's Kurdish refugee burden, talked of what he called the "blind spot" over the Beirut hostages.

Nobody would wish for a moment to overlook the inhumanity and the injustice of the 12 innocent hostages who have been incarcerated in Beirut. But Iranians find it hard to accept that hundreds, if not thousands, should be allowed to suffer and die because of them. Would not Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Jack Mann, perhaps, be horrified to think that inaction over their fate by Tehran was being linked to that of the refugees from Iraq's civil war?

When Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, arrives in Tehran tonight she will see for herself the extent of the refugee problem that Iran is grappling with. In the Iranian town of Sar Dasht, which I visited last week, there was a bedlam as more than 1,000 women and children sat for help to arrive.

However, a correspondent who returned from the town yesterday said he was struck not by the noise but by the silence: the refugees seemed to have been stunned into a state of shock as the delay in help to arrive lengthens.

But it is thought that Mrs Chalker will carry with her a letter from John Major telling President Rafsanjani that until he does something about the hostages, Britain and America will continue to stall on the badly needed aid.

President Bush, in announcing the safe havens plan, said humanitarian considerations outweighed all reservations he and the allies may have about infringing Iraqi sovereignty. By the same token, some argue in Iran, the scale of the disaster here should outweigh any other considerations.



Pele's troupe: Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet president, joins in the fun with the former Brazilian soccer star, and Brooke Shields, the American actress, during the World Children's Festival in Tokyo yesterday on the final leg of his visit to Japan. Tokyo talks flop, page 10

Murder threatens Ulster talks

By TIM JONES

POLITICIANS in Northern Ireland yesterday expressed concern that sectarian gunmen were engaged on an escalating campaign of indiscriminate murder aimed at undermining the talks on the future of the province which began on April 30.

Their fears were raised after John O'Hara, a Roman

Catholic taxi driver, was killed by gunfire after being lured into a Loyalist ambush. Yesterday, Mr O'Hara's wife, Maire, whose first husband was murdered by Loyalists in the early 1970s, was under sedation.

Politicians believe that the gunmen are now almost beyond the control of even their own "military command structures" and are trying to

force a bloody trail of tit-for-tat killings to thwart the political process.

Peter Robinson, the Democratic Unionist Party MP for East Belfast, said: "A trail of bodies leading up to the talks does not help that process."

The gunmen who targeted Mr O'Hara's vehicle, ran off into a Loyalist area of Belfast. Their victim died hours after the so-called Combined Loy-

alist Military Command, a hitherto unheard of organisation, stated that it would conditionally halt operations once the political negotiations got under way.

Later, the outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters, a name of convenience used by the Ulster Defence Association, claimed responsibility, stating that it was "well-known that republicans are using taxis as cover to target Loyalists and as such are part of the republican war machine".

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, who had welcomed the ceasefire declaration, said: "Today we really do not know where we stand except for one thing - we can now see that the violence carried out in the name of loyalism and republicanism is truly sectarian violence without any political philosophy."

Brian Feeney, an SDLP member of Belfast city council said: "What concerns me is that Loyalists will attempt to

kill as many people as possible between now and the beginning of the talks. They will try to raise the violence until that process begins."

On the republican side, there are no indications of any ceasefire. The IRA, whose political wing, Sinn Féin, has been excluded from the talks, is expected by some security sources to step up its campaign in the run-up to the talks.



Robinson: appalled by the prospect of more killings

Political sketch

But, sir, I was tied up at the castle

AS EXCUSES pleading "prior engagement" go, a prior engagement with the Queen trumps most, you think?

But Neil Kinnock is a modest bloke, not one to drop names. Invited by Her Majesty for a quiet little dinner at Windsor Castle on Tuesday ("and do stay: the buses are terribly unreliable at that time of night, one finds. We'll have the guest room ready...") the Labour leader did not broadcast it. Besides, it would be in *The Times* Court Circular.

Still, he was looking forward to the occasion. With an election looming, Her Majesty was clearly hedging her bets. No doubt she had invited Mr Kinnock so that he could explain his proposals for tax changes for top earners, and she would be hungry for news of Labour's "fair rates" plans for second homes. Mr Kinnock made a mental note to look up his party's policies on dog licensing, and value-added tax on bloodstock, in case these were raised over soup. Without question, he must go.

As for Tuesday's all-night session on the Cardiff Bay barrage bill (consideration of Lords amendments), well, a quiet word in the ear of Labour's chief whip should suffice. After all, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs Carey, and the home secretary and Mrs Baker were to be there. No doubt the whips could spare him for this rather special night out.

There was surely nothing to explain. The Duke of Edinburgh, who appears to have been tempted away from these pleasures by the excitement of opening the Copthorne Slough Windsor Hotel, Cippinham, the same evening, has a case to answer: not Mr Kinnock.

So it must have come as a shock at PM's questions, yesterday afternoon, when John Major rounded on the Opposition leader and demanded to know why he had

been absent from the barrage bill proceedings. The House fell silent.

Kinnock looked puzzled. Surely he knew! What could it mean? Major's goal of a classless society is well known, but is the prime minister a republican? Cromwell came from Huntingdon.

"Where were you?" Tories roared.

Mr Kinnock smiled awkwardly. He had half expected to have to explain his presence at Windsor to the likes of Dennis Skinner or Tony Benn. But to explain his absence from the Cardiff Bay barrage bill to 10 Downing Street was strange indeed.

The reason I was not in the House, he started, with the cheeky grin of a schoolboy with a note from his mum. "Was because Her Majesty had done me the enormous honour of inviting myself and my wife to spend the night with the royal family in Windsor Castle. I think the prime minister's many advisers might have drawn his attention to the Court Circular."

Am I excused, Sir? Giggling, your sketch-writer headed for the Lords. Mooted peers want to abolish the mandatory life sentence for murder.

"It would give all the wrong signals to the general public," protested Lady Platt of Whittle, as though this palace of refinement was surrounded by a murderous populace just waiting for signals from their Lordships to commence slaughter.

For the government, Lord Waddington opposed the idea, seemingly on the grounds that it would look bad in the tabloids and give discretion to judges: powerful arguments, but not especially well deployed, perhaps, in the Lords?

The debate was preceded by three enormous claps of thunder outside. Ill omens for the government whip?

MATTHEW PARRIS

How the parties' teams line up

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the talks on Northern Ireland's future begin, each of the political parties will be represented by a ten-strong delegation. Three members of each team will sit at the negotiating table.

The Ulster Unionist party's delegation will be led by James Molyneux, the party leader, James Nicholson, the party's Euro MP and Josias Cunningham, the president of

the Ulster Unionist Council. Mr Molyneux's team will also include the Rev Martin Smyth, David Trimble and Ken Maginnis, who are all MPs.

Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist party, will head his delegation which will include its two other MPs, Peter Robinson and the Rev William McCrea. They will be supported by younger mem-

bers including Nigel Dodds and Sammy Wilson. The Social Democratic and Labour party's team will be led by its three MPs, John Hume, Seamus Mallon and Eddie McGrady. They are expected to be supported by Joe Hendron, chairman of the party's constituency representatives, Denis Haughey, Brid Rodgers, and Mark Durkan.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, who had welcomed the ceasefire declaration, said: "Today we really do not know where we stand except for one thing - we can now see that the violence carried out in the name of loyalism and republicanism is truly sectarian violence without any political philosophy."

Brian Feeney, an SDLP member of Belfast city council said: "What concerns me is that Loyalists will attempt to

King pledge on troops

Continued from page 1

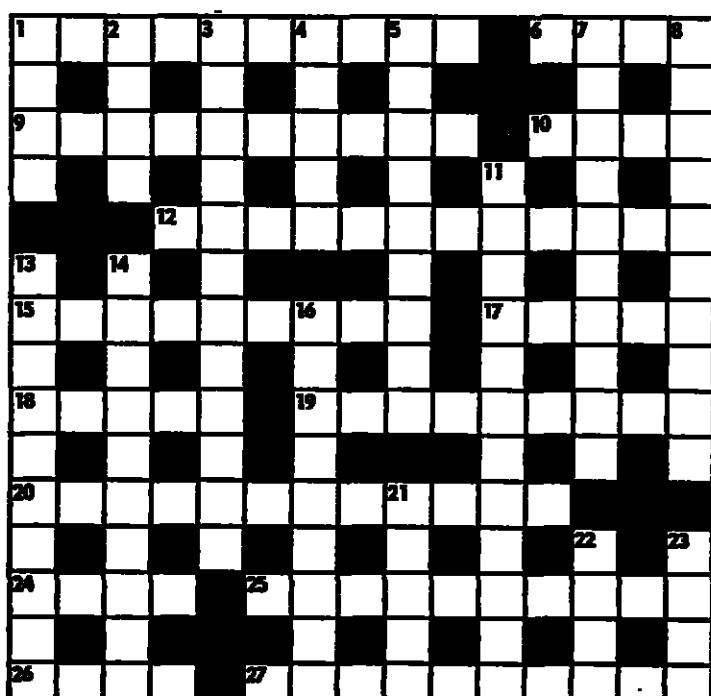
responsibility for the camps as soon as possible. The defence secretary said: "We are not prepared to see these camps becoming guerrilla bases... and we will not allow armed Kurds to use them as bases from which to pursue their campaigns. It would be most unsatisfactory if those camps contained factions of armed men which could put our own people in a very dangerous situation."

Mr King emphasised, as Douglas Hurd had done the day before, that it was the government's intention that the UN should take over

responsibility for the camps as soon as possible.

The defence secretary said: "We are not prepared to see these camps becoming guerrilla bases... and we will not allow armed Kurds to use them as bases from which to pursue their campaigns. It would be most unsatisfactory if those camps contained factions of armed men which could put our own people in a very dangerous situation."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,584



By Philip Howard

ACROSS

1. An exterior scent

2. Resounding

3. A noise that is clattering

4. Chopped straw

5. A beater's rattle

6. A child's ally

7. The first half of June

8. A tropical

9. A pedagogue

10. Farthest from the sun

11. Proof by absurdity

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BUSINESS

Business Editor
John Bell

FRIDAY APRIL 19 1991

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Institutions
call for
jobs split

THE Institutional Shareholders Committee, which represents all the main groups of institutional shareholders, has issued a strong call for the roles of chairman and chief executive to be separated in public companies and for companies to recruit high-grade non-executive directors (Graham Seargeant writes).

In a statement of best practice, the ISC urges that committees wholly or mainly of non-executive directors should vet company audits and fix executive directors' pay and incentives. The ISC wants tighter arrangements to deal with conflicts of interest in management buyouts and says that incentive schemes and compensation for loss of office should be published in company accounts.

The ISC will not seek to enforce its recommendations.

Comment, page 27

Littlewoods
soars by 46%

Littlewoods, the privately owned retail clothing, mail order and football pools group, reported a 46 per cent increase last year in profits to £94.8 million, based on a small rise in turnover to £2.37 billion.

A sharp fall in interest charges from £23.3 million to £12.5 million also boosted the result, but a 60 per cent jump in the profitability of the chain store division to £29.4 million after sales of £623 million was, in the company's view, the most satisfying aspect of the year.

Lep leaps

LEP, the freight forwarding and security group, increased pre-tax profits by 22 per cent to £29.4 million last year, in spite of an accountancy change that depressed its figures by £1.6 million. The company is paying a 5p final dividend, up 18 per cent, to make 7p for the year.

Fisher up

Albert Fisher, the fresh and frozen food distributor, reported interim pre-tax profits of £44.98 million for the six months to end-February, against £30.53 million a year ago. The interim dividend has been raised from 1.5p to 1.75p.

Temps, page 27

US dollar 1.7730 (-0.0095)
German mark 2.9920 (+0.0135)
Exchange index 93.0 (+0.1)

FT 30 Share 1996.4 (-5.0)
FT-SE 100 2538.4 (-6.6)
New York Dow Jones 3008.91 (+4.45)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 26798.90 (-181.47)

RISES:
A Cohen 525p (+30p)
Bass 577p (+10p)
JA Devenish 231p (+12p)
Barlow Rand 682p (+10p)
Broken Hill 509p (+8p)
Midstates 57p (+8p)
A Kershaw 505p (+10p)
Boosey & Hawkes 875p (+32p)
Central TV 585p (+10p)
New York 58p (+11p)

FALLS:
Hawker Siddeley 583p (-8p)
Morgan Crucible 237p (-10p)
Higgs & Hill 320p (-12p)
British Aerospace 627p (-10p)
Grand Met 803p (-8p)
Sotobays 782p (-12p)
H Barrett 839p (-10p)
Standard Chartered 390p (-15p)

Closing Prices...Page 35

London: Bank Base: 12%
3-month interbank 11 1/4-11 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 11 1/4-11 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 5 1/4-5 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.64-5.62%
30-year bonds 9 5/8-9 7/8%

London: New York
£: \$1.7730
£: DM2.9920
£: Sfr1.4405
£: FF10.1052
£: Yen242.37
£: Index330
ECU 0.690339
SDR 1.447934
SDR1.307979

London: New York
AM \$361.20 pm \$359.15
close \$360.70-361.10 (2203.40-233.50)
New York: Comex \$358.55-368.05

RETAIL PRICES
RPI: 131.4 March (1987=100)

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (May) \$19.50 bbl (\$20.00)
Denotes latest trading price

Fierce battle threatens

Boddington
bids £128m
for Devenish

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

A NEW national network of public houses could emerge if a £128 million takeover bid by the Boddington Group for JA Devenish, the Dorset group, succeeds.

Boddington, which pulled out of brewing in preference for retailing in the wake of the monopolies commission report on the tied house trade, wants to add the 368-strong Devenish estate, dotted around the west country and stretching to London and Humber, to its 490 pubs in north west England and Wales.

The Manchester-based group, which is offering Devenish shareholders a choice of its own shares or cash, faces a fight, however.

John Clark, deputy chairman of Devenish, threw out the bid, describing the terms as "wholly inadequate."

Devenish shareholders are being offered ten Boddington shares for every seven of their own, or 210p a share cash. The paper offer valued Devenish shares at about 233p at the time it was launched, although by last night a falling Boddington share price - down 6p to 157p - had reduced the bid value to 225p.

An investigation into the recent surge in the Devenish share price is likely to be undertaken by the International Stock Exchange. It had risen from around 150p at the beginning of this month to 220p on Wednesday night. Last night it closed at 234p. Boddington says its offer

values Devenish shares at 15 times its last reported earnings.

Details of Boddington's bid were accompanied by a furious attack on the Devenish board. Denis Cassidy, chairman of Boddington, said: "Its performance has declined sharply - a result of a discredited management strategy which has seen millions of pounds of shareholders' money wasted on ill-judged investments in brewery and brand development."

He was referring to the brewery built by Devenish at Redruth in Cornwall, and the launch of the group's range of Newquay Steam beer and lager. "We will dispose of the Devenish brewery," he promised, "and merge the two businesses to create a powerful independent force in drink retailing."

Mr Clark rejected the criticism, but admitted the brewery had not performed up to his own board's expectations, largely because economic conditions had been more difficult than expected. Its future would be reviewed by the end of the financial year. "If we find it is pulling the rest of the group down, we would have to take decisive action."

Boddington's own diversification programme, which has taken it into nursing homes, had not been encouraging over the past year. "And they have no particular skills in retailing that would enhance our operation," he added.

The bid came as a surprise to Devenish, which only last week sold its 3.7 per cent stake in Boddington, an investment built up over the past three years, during which time Devenish initiated exploratory merger talks with Boddington. According to Hubert Reid, managing director of Boddington, these talks were discontinued, again at the instigation of Devenish.

About 25 per cent of the Devenish share capital is in the hands of two families, the Cannons, whose Michael Cannon is chairman and chief executive, and the Ashdowns. The key to the success of the bid, however, is likely to be the response of Whitbread Investment, owner of a 15.3 per cent chunk of the Devenish equity, and a 22 per cent shareholder in Boddington.

Output fall hits
recovery hopes

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

A STEEP fall in manufacturing production coincided yesterday with the announcement of a record jump in unemployment figures, dispelling hopes that the recession in the British economy was on the point of bottoming out.

Manufacturing output fell 1.6 per cent in February, the sharpest monthly drop since a freak 2.7 per cent fall in February 1988. In the three months to February, manufacturing output dropped by 2 per cent compared with the previous three-monthly period and was 4.5 per cent below the level a year earlier.

The fall in manufacturing output was much steeper than the 0.5 per cent forecast by City economists and the three-month average production levels, considered a better indicator of underlying trends by government statisticians, also showed no let-up in the rate of decline.

The output of all production industries, including manufacturing and energy, fell by 1.5 per cent in the three months to February, but rose by 1.6 per cent in February alone, after a fall of 0.7 per cent in January.

Coming on top of the record 112,900 rise in the March

jobless total, also announced yesterday, the poor output figures renewed City speculation about another cut in interest rates, perhaps even before the local elections on May 2. The monthly increase was the largest since 1971, when the current unemployment series began. The seasonally-adjusted jobless total rose to 2.09 million, or 7.4 per cent of the workforce.

"One half of one per cent of the country's workforce lost their jobs last month - one in 200 people," said Simon Briscoe, economist at Midland Montagu, highlighting the political pressure on the government to cut rates again.

The deepening world recession was highlighted by figures from America and France. In America, the trade deficit shrank to \$5.33 billion in February from \$7.16 billion, as imports and exports both weakened. In France, manufacturing output fell by 3.3 per cent in February, after an erratic increase in January. French manufacturing was 5.4 per cent below the level of February, 1990. In Canada, the trade surplus widened to Can\$626 million from Can\$235 million in January after imports fell 8 per cent.

Slough aims to raise £138m

By NEIL BENNETT

SLOUGH Estates, the property group, and David S Smith, the paper manufacturer, have joined the long list of companies to capitalise on the buoyant stock market and hold rights issues. The companies are asking shareholders for a total of £188 million.

Slough's call for funds comes only three weeks after the company published its results for 1990, which

showed a 72 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £22.6 million. Slough is raising £138 million through a one-for-two issue of convertible preference shares.

The amount raised will barely dent Slough's £880 million debt. Graeme Elliot, vice chairman, said the issue was intended to correct the balance sheet.

Slough offers attractive terms. The preference shares carry an 11 per cent gross

yield, more than most gilts. Smith has requested £50 million through a one-for-four ordinary issue. This will be used to finance its £75 million investment in Kemsley Mill, the paper-making plant.

Smith forecasts that its pre-tax profits for the year to April will fall by 11 per cent to £23.5 million, but that it will increase its final dividend by 0.25p to 6.75p, to make 9.5p for the year, up 3 per cent.

Comment, page 27

Banking on new men at the top

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE boards and senior management of two high street banks were revamped yesterday. While Sir Peter Middleton, a Treasury mandarin, was appointed an executive board member of Barclays, National Westminster put in place a new chairman and a new chief executive at its investment bank.

Sir Peter, permanent secretary at the Treasury since 1983, will join Barclays' main board as a deputy chairman in November and, at the same time, will succeed Sir Martin Jacoby on the markets and chairman of Barclays division, which includes Barclays de Zoete Wedd. Sir Martin will continue as a non-executive deputy chairman of the bank.

Across the City, Lord Alexander of Weedon, the chairman of NatWest, announced that Sir Geoffrey Lither will become chairman

of NatWest Investment Bank, County NatWest's parent, and take a seat on the bank's main board. John Drury, a 39-year-old Australian who joined NWIB as deputy chief executive last year, has been promoted to chief executive.

The changes, particularly those at the loss-making NWIB, reflect a tougher approach towards those businesses grafted on to the leading banks in the run-up to Big Bang in 1986.

Sir Geoffrey and Mr Drury replace Howard Macdonald, aged 62, who was brought into NWIB as chairman and chief executive in January 1989 in the aftermath of the Blue Arrow affair. At that time, the bank needed the services of an outsider who was unconnected with the Blue Arrow matter. Mr Macdonald has resigned from the bank and sits on the boards of other companies, including BOC.



Lither, main board seat delivered an ultimatum to NWIB to become profitable within two years or face closure. The new blood is viewed as the division's last chance. Both men have been eased into their jobs: Sir Geoffrey, who was second permanent secretary (overseas finance) at the Treasury until 1989, has been on NWIB's board for almost two years, against Mr Drury's six months as Mr Macdonald's deputy.



Back to the future: James Miller, chairman of Miller Group, in front of an artist's view of the planned bridge to Skye

Driving over the seas to Skye

By KERRY GILL

THE sea crossing to Skye, which never fails to remind the traveller of Bonnie Prince Charlie's flight after the failure of the Jacobite rebellion, will follow the Young Pretender into history within four years.

In a joint venture, the Miller Group, of Scotland, and Dyckerhoff & Widmann, of Germany, will begin building a £23 million bridge to Britain's most romantic island next spring.

The 710-metre concrete box girder bridge will cross from Kyle of Lochalsh on the mainland to Kyleakin on Skye.

Once completed, it will be the longest span bridge of its kind outside Australia.

Tolls will be levied, although Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the Scottish environment minister, said they would compare favourably with the ferry charges. Concessions will be available for local people.

Pedestrians and cyclists will be able to cross for nothing and the builders will give two minibuses to the community, which will be able to organise free journeys for people going to work, school or on shopping trips. Lord James said:

"A bridge will be a tremendous boost for Skye and its people, bringing them a higher standard of living together with improved communications. It will help encourage more tourism for Skye and the Western Isles."

Last year, about 450,000 vehicles used the ferry crossing to reach Skye.

The design of the bridge was completed after consultation with organisations ranging from the National Trust for Scotland and the Royal Fine Arts Commission for Scotland to the Scottish Rights of Way Society and the defence min-

istry. The original height was reduced by five metres to allow the bridge to blend better with the surrounding countryside.

Most materials will be delivered to the site by sea to protect surrounding villages.

Construction will be financed by Skye Bridge Tolls, a consortium that will recoup the cost through the tolls. Jobs will be offered to as many of the ferryboat crews as possible. At the peak of activity, about 120 people will be employed.

Leading article, page 15

Trusthouse
suffers
27% fall

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE Gulf war, recession and a weak dollar combined to hit profits last year at Trusthouse Forte, the hotels and catering group, and analysts are taking a gloomy view of the current trading period.

Rocco Forte, the chief executive, said difficult conditions continued after the start of the year in February.

He gave warning of a serious shortfall in sales, especially in London and international hotels. Mr Forte said recent weeks had seen some improvement, and that if recent trends continued, growth should resume by the second half of the year.

Analysts are expecting a poor first half. After a 27 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £190 million in the year ended last January, they expect a further fall in profits over the whole of the current year. County Natwest is forecasting £160 million before tax, including £5 million of property sales.

In anticipation of a recovery, THF is paying an unchanged final dividend of 7.16p per share, making a total for the year of 9.91p, giving an increase of 3 per cent in the total payout.

Net asset value rose 9 per cent to 376p per share, but earnings per share slipped 8 per cent to 18.6p. THF shares closed 4p down at 268p.

BP plans Britoil tax move

By COLIN CAMPBELL

BRITISH Petroleum, in a novel attempt to reduce its advance corporation tax (ACT) liability, today meets Inland Revenue officials to discuss a tax-efficient scheme that involves the distribution of Britoil preference shares to BP shareholders.

If BP's initiative is successful, it will assist cashflow by up to £150 million this year. ACT liability has assumed problem proportions for BP because of the dominance of overseas earnings relative to

British earnings in any one financial year.

The essence of the scheme outlined by Robert Horton, BP chairman, at yesterday's annual meeting, is that shareholders would be offered a "stapled" share in Britoil through which dividend declarations would be made.

Any benefit to the individual BP shareholder from the scheme would be indirect, in that the scheme would be of primary help to the company. The individual Britoil share would not be quoted or traded separately, and would have a

par value of a fraction of a penny. Preference shares in Britoil, a wholly owned subsidiary, would be redeemed once BP's tax problem had been resolved.

BP, with other groups, last year urged the Chancellor to address the question of ACT, which many have said is an unfair form of double tax.

BP has been working on the Britoil scheme for some months. The group would extend the scheme to American investors holding BP shares through American depository receipts.

One pension fund manager
did achieve a positive return in 1990

WORLDWIDE ASSET MANAGERS

	PYRFORD 'Fund A'	PYRFORD 'Fund B'	CAPS Medium Fund
Return in 1990	+2.4%	+3.6%	-10.5%
Average Annual Compound rate of return Last 3 Years	+13.3%	N.B.	+9.4%

*Please note that past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

SOURCE CAPS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRUCE CAMPBELL

79 Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, London W1X 9DE. Telephone (071) 495 4641. Telex (071) 499 5661.

A MEMBER OF IARG

LONDON MELBOURNE AUCKLAND NEUCHÂTEL

WG board tries to avert coup

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE directors of Walker Greenbank, the wall coverings group, have attempted to preempt a challenge from a dissident shareholder by announcing improved figures a month early.

The board is hoping to rally shareholder support before next week's extraordinary meeting at which Aubin, the investment consortium based in Jersey that holds a 28 per cent stake, will attempt to place its own representatives on the board.

Pre-tax profits for the year to February 2 rose to £7.96 million (£7.12 million) with earnings rising from 5.1p to 5.55p per share. A final dividend of 1.9p makes 3.1p for the year, up 12.7 per cent.

Wall coverings saw profits fall slightly to £7.4 million. However, there was an interest income of £1.07 million (£2.52 million interest charge).

Aubin requires a simple majority of the votes cast at the meeting to force through resolutions giving its team five seats on the board.

Charles Wightman, Walker Greenbank's chief executive, said: "The current attempt by Aubin to take control of Walker Greenbank on the cheap is an unnecessary distraction for the group."

Blue Circle gloomy about prospects as profits drop

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BLUE Circle Industries, the building materials multinational that controls more than half of the British cement market, has reported lower profits and sees little hope of much recovery before the middle of next year.

James McColgan, the managing director, said that demand for cement in Britain, which dropped by more than 12 per cent last year, had fallen by a fifth in the first quarter of this year, although that was partly due to the weather and an early Easter. He said further cuts in interest rates and inflation would be needed.

There could be a quick improvement in the housing market but commercial construction was bound to worsen. Pre-tax profits fell 16 per cent to £195 million on turnover down 5 per cent to £1.21 billion, but the dividend rises from 11p to 11.25p.

Operating profits in Britain, where the group, chaired by Sir Peter Walters, also owns Armitage Shanks sanitary ware, Potzertson and Myson boilers and New World domestic appliances, fell a quarter to £128 million.

In America, where demand again fell, profits were level,

but there were again strong performances in Malaysia, Africa and Chile. Cement prices in Britain have been raised by 7 per cent after Blue Circle discounted prices last year to recover and maintain its share of the market. Mr McColgan said there was little hope of a profit recovery this year.

He said: "Let's face the fact that there will be a further decline." The extent depended on market conditions. "But we are leaner and well equipped to bounce back at the first opportunity," he added.

He ruled out a rights issue, on which there had been some speculation, unless it was to fund a large acquisition.

The group wants to expand on the Continent, especially in home products, and in America, where it sees opportunities to expand its geographical coverage in cement, aggregates or ready-mix concrete.

The group has withdrawn its loss-making Quakcast and Alco lawnmower businesses from sale because prices offered were too low, and it is now to close its Derby factory and concentrate production in Stowmarket, Suffolk.

Times, page 27



Payout raised despite lower profits: Sir Peter Walters

Big firms to discuss pensions

By COLIN NARBROUGH

A GROUP of Britain's big companies have prompted Tony Newton, social security secretary, to call a meeting to discuss their concerns about equal treatment of the sexes on pensions.

Their anxiety about the government's stance on pension policy was underlined by John Kerridge, chairman of Fisons, in a speech on the first day of the National Association of Pension Funds' conference at Torquay, Devon. He attacked the government for attempting to discriminate in favour of personal pensions against company schemes.

His company's pension fund is one of the signatories to a letter to Mr Newton setting out the demands of 18 pension funds for immediate action, including legislation to allow schemes to comply with the article of the Treaty of Rome requiring sex equality.

Backers of the ICI-initiated approach include the pension funds of the big four clearing banks, British Gas, British Telecom and Hanson. The group fears that in the worst scenario, the government might opt to cut the pensionable age for men from 65 to 60 to bring it in line with women.

Pensions turmoil, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Interest income lifts William Low 9%

ADDITIONAL costs associated with a major investment programme left interim operating profits almost unchanged at £11.01 million at William Low, the Scottish supermarket chain. Pre-tax profits for the 28 weeks to March 16 are up by 9 per cent to £11.42 million, thanks to £403,000 of interest income from the company's cash resources. A £37 million rights issue in December eliminated borrowings.

The net operating margin fell from 6 per cent to 5.6 per cent, largely because of the costs associated with a new multi-temperature depot at Livingston, Lothian, and a programme to upgrade the company's information systems. James Millar, chairman and chief executive, said he expected the pattern of trading in the rest of the year to be similar to that experienced in the first half. An interim dividend of 2.7p compares with 2.5p last year.

Vivat returns to profit

VIVAT Holdings, the Lee Cooper jeans company, has returned to the dividend list after a two-year absence and turned in its first profit since 1987. Pre-tax profits for the year to December were £3.65 million against a loss of £1.15 million in the previous year. Interest charges were £3.97 million compared with £3.35 million in 1989. The final and sole dividend for the year is 0.5p.

C&S quote suspended

SHARES in Central & Sheerwood, the engineering and property company headed by Robert Maxwell, have been suspended at 34p, pending news of a substantial acquisition. C&S also reported that pre-tax profits last year rose 15 per cent to £2.94 million on turnover 7 per cent ahead at £53.17 million. A final dividend of 0.1p doubles the total to 0.2p.

Liquidator at Bell

GEOFF Tottendale, of Price Waterhouse, has been appointed provisional liquidator to Bell Group, publisher of *The West Australian*, and an affiliate of Bond Corporation. Bell made an application to the Western Australian supreme court because of continuing delays in its proposed restructuring.

Bell's banks will appoint Lindsay Maxsted and Charles Fear, of KPMG Pen Marwick McLintock, as receivers and managers of two subsidiaries. Bell Publishing Group and Bell Group Finance. Receivers have not been appointed to Western Australian Newspapers.

Sears issues £100m bond

SEARS, the stores group, has taken advantage of international institutional investors' increasing demand for sterling denominated corporate bonds by issuing a £100 million five-year eurosterling bond yielding an interest rate of 11 per cent. The issue was led by Credit Suisse First Boston, with SG Warburg and Goldman Sachs as co-lead managers.

AAC mines down 18.8%

COMBINED net profits from six Anglo American Corp gold mines, showing an 18.8 per cent fall from R164.8 million (£33.9 million) to R133.8 million in the March quarter, confirm the tougher times facing the South African industry. Comparable profits from Gencor Group, the country's largest group after Anglo, fell from R94.7 million to R63.7 million (11 mines).

Anglo plans merger

ANGLO-Park Group, the Winchester commercial property company, plans an agreed merger with St James Estates, a private property firm in which Anglo has a 21.9 per cent stake. The recommended offer is on the basis of 19 Anglo-Park shares for every 20 St James shares it does not own. Anglo had pre-tax interim losses of £1.17 million (£68,000 loss) to end-December. Turnover fell to £247,000 (£610,000). The interim dividend has been cut to 0.5p (2p). There is a 12.6p loss per share (0.7p loss). Anglo shares were unchanged at 33p.

Wilton bids for Cowan

By PHILIP PANGALOS

WILTON Group, the USM stone masonry to property investment group, is making a £3.8 million recommended offer for the shares it does not own in Cowan de Groot, the toys to industrial hardware group. Wilton already has a 29.3 per cent stake. The terms offer six new Wilton shares for each Cowan ordinary share, valuing the latter at 15p.

At the same time, Wilton announced a pre-tax loss of £1.08 million (£822,300 profit) in the year to December.

Wilton has conditionally placed 30 million new ordinary shares, at 2.5p a share, with institutional investors, to raise about £750,000. Wilton shares lost 7p to 24p, while Cowan climbed 2p to 14p.

Southern sells holdings

By OUR CITY STAFF

SOUTHERN Water has sold its minority stakes in three statutory water companies to SAUR Water Services, the French water company, for £10.7 million.

The disposals are of about 25 per cent of the voting capital of Eastbourne Water Company, Mid-Sussex Water Company and West Kent Water Company. SAUR already holds a majority of the voting capital in the firms.

Wilton Courty, chairman of Southern Water, said: "The development of our relationship with SAUR, with whom we already have a joint venture operation in waste management, has substantially achieved the strategic objective of these shareholdings."

The Blue Arrow trial

County 'misled' market on rights

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE former managing director of County NatWest Securities told an Old Bailey jury he thought his colleagues had misled people when they heralded the record Blue Arrow rights issue a triumph.

Press releases and advertisements labelled the £837 million cash call a success, but it is alleged professional advisers to the employment agency secretly bought huge stakes in the issue to bail it out.

Stephen Raven, of County NatWest Securities, said: "I felt we certainly had misled people into thinking the rights issue was far more of a success than it really was."

He said he was surprised to learn of the "sheer size" of his company's 4.5 per cent holding, about 32.3 million shares, in Blue Arrow. He became concerned after learning that County NatWest, the merchant bank and parent of CNWS, had also bought 35.3 million shares in the issue. Mr

Raven added that when he raised his fears about breaking City rules, he was assured legal advice had been taken before the investment.

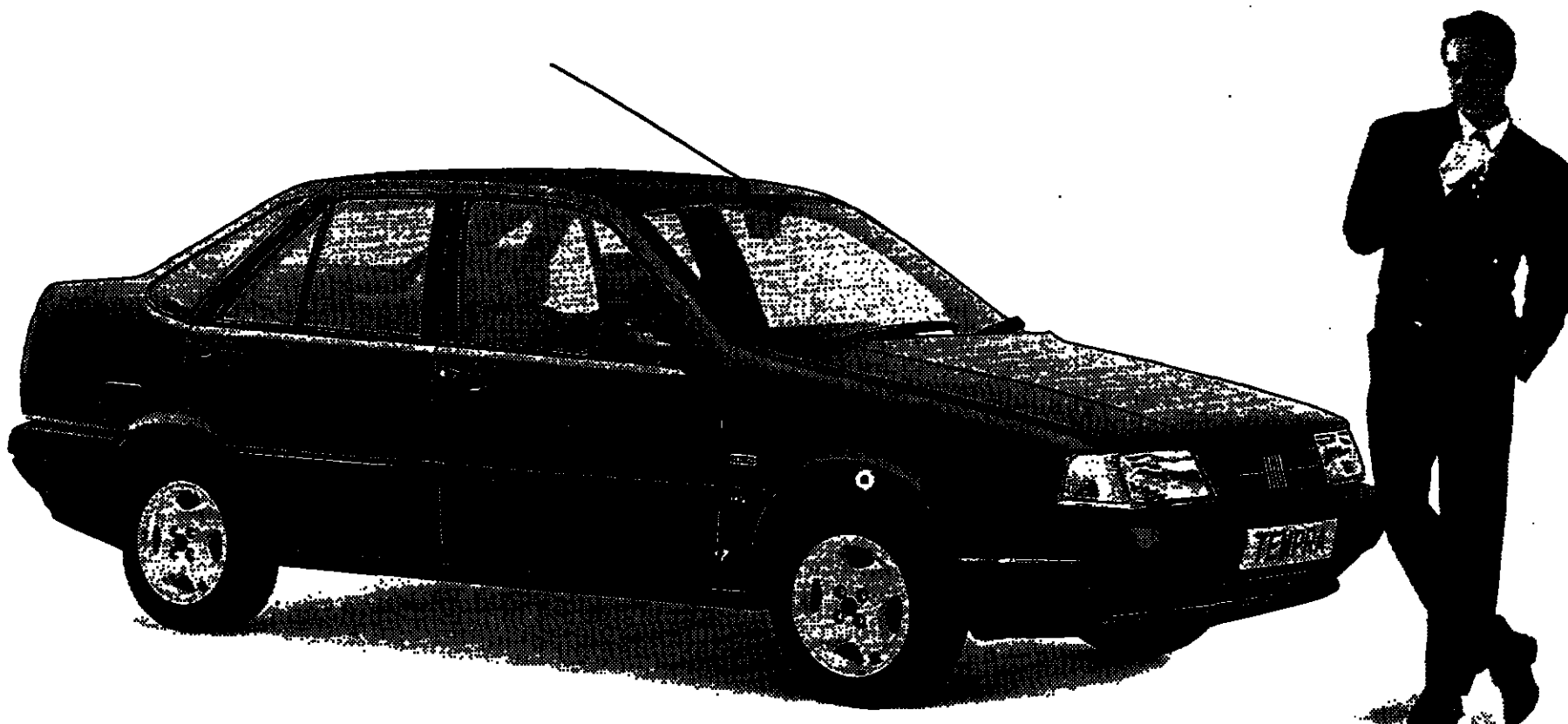
One County officer, in charge of seeing International Stock Exchange rules were complied with, told Mr Raven not to worry "and it was none of my business".

County NatWest Investment Bank, its parent, UBS Phillips & Drew Securities, the broker, and seven individuals deny a single charge of conspiracy to defraud.

Mr Raven said of the Blue Arrow cash call: "In my opinion the statements and various adverts gave a very firm impression these shares had been placed through other people in the market or with shareholders. I do not consider putting shares on a market-makers book and in corporate finance was placing in the market."

The trial continues today.

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سكدا عنة المرحله

The Flemish flourish in independence

Belgium is slowly coming apart at seams stitched up in the 19th century. George Brock reports on revitalisation in Flanders following the decentralisation of government

Flanders is trying to distance itself from Belgium's reputation. Indeed, Flanders is all but trying to get out of Belgium altogether. Belgium's richer, Dutch-speaking northern half now thinks of the parent state as a disadvantage and an embarrassment.

Belgium's image as a nation state does not stand high with its neighbours. The government's dithering during the Gulf war and the row with the British government over the sale of ammunition were only the most recent targets of criticism from Britain, France and elsewhere. The cabinets put together by Wilfried Martens, the prime minister and a veteran coalition-maker, have been so numerous that they are given Roman numerals to distinguish them. The present, government is known as Martens

VIII. However, as the country slowly pulls apart, with devolution of powers to the three regions of Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels, its constituent parts can sell their own wares and make their own images. The language border slices the country in half. Flanders, with a small pocket carved out of its southern flank for predominantly French-speaking Brussels, is the upper half of Belgium.

The landscape between the cities is flat but rich: large fields separated by windbreak lines of poplars and redbrick farmhouses. The principal cities range from the 16th century glories of Ghent and Bruges to the 20 square miles of docks on the river Schelde at Antwerp, which dwarf the city proper.

Flanders is now flaunting the statistics of its economy, which outperforms French

speaking Wallonia by clear margins. Flanders, which accounts for 58 per cent of the population and 44 per cent of the land, is the latest European example of the economic success of federalism.

As the region has acquired more and more power of its own and shaken off central government, so its economy has burgeoned.

Youth unemployment last year stood at a quarter of its 1984 level. In the same six-year period, 200,000 new jobs were created in a region of just



over five and a half million people. Industrial production rose by 30 per cent in the last decade, exports by 50 per cent and investment by 100 per cent.

About half of Flanders' industry is multinational. The regional government hopes to pull in more investors and competes fiercely with Wallonia and Brussels.

In 1830 the Belgian state was founded, in the fashion of the day, as liberal and centralised. The constitution has been coming unstitched ever since. History has bred a widespread distrust of all public power, and Belgians like their authorities as decen-

tralised as they can make them.

In the past 20 years, the devolution of Belgium into its three regions has been rapid. Three rounds of constitutional reform, in 1970, 1980 and 1988, have left few substantial responsibilities with the central government, which now looks after foreign affairs, defence, the constitution (a more demanding responsibility than elsewhere), social security, law, monetary policy and some taxation.

Forty per cent of public

revenues go straight to the regions and "communities". The regions run matters related to territory: planning, infrastructure, roads, regional development, water, energy and the municipalities. The language communities (Dutch, French and a tiny German-speaking group at the eastern tip of the country) run people-related services: welfare, broadcasting, culture, education.

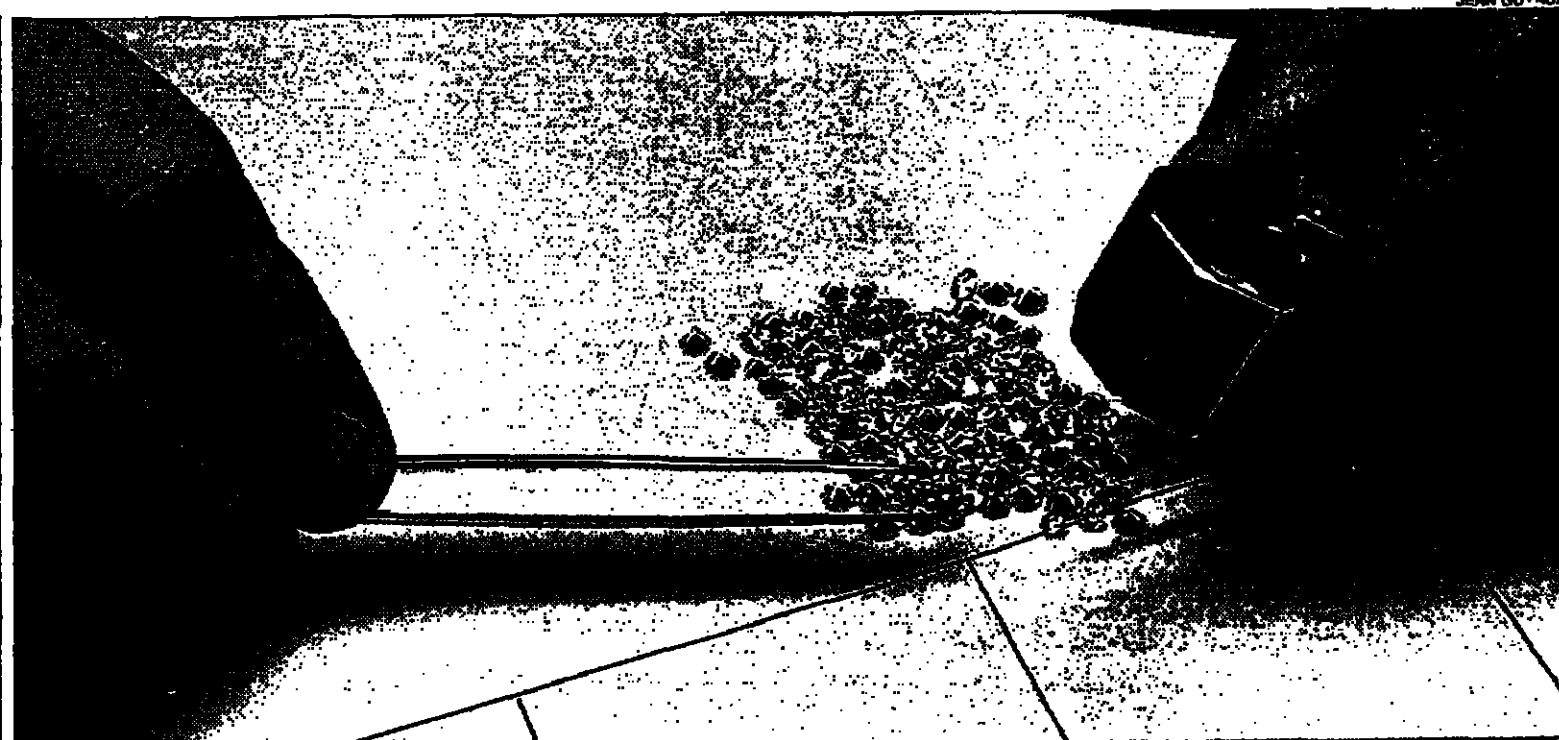
In Flanders, the regional and communal authorities are one. The government is a cabinet of 11 men (no women at the moment) under Gaston Geens, the "minister-president" or premier; they represent the four parties with seats in the Flemish Council. That body, 186-strong, is drawn from members of the national parliament. Constitutional reform is still incomplete.

The Flanders government, however, now thinks enough economic decision-making has trickled down for the mix to work.

"Regionalisation has contributed to the reduction of the national public debt," says Geef van Ginderachter, an adviser to Mr Geens. "We have to compete now, and that has concentrated the minds of business."



Competitive: premier Gaston Greene



Antwerp's best friend: the city is still the European centre of the diamond trade but has slipped behind Brussels in Belgium's pecking order

Antwerp sparkles as city of culture

When Melina Mercouri, the former Greek culture minister, had the idea of naming a European "city of culture" for a year at a time, the scheme looked like just another tourist gimmick. However, the title is now coveted for the attention and money it can attract. From Dublin this year, the torch passes to Madrid in 1992 and thence to Antwerp the following year (*George Brock writes*).

Antwerp's importance seems to have declined in the 20th century. Four hundred years ago it was a great Jewish center. The Flemish, one of the world's shrewdest trading cities, well-placed at the mouth of the river Schelde. The dukes of Burgundy had shrewdly built up Antwerp as the crux of

The jewel of Flanders, Europe's second largest port and long a world leader in trade, is trying to restore its glory

the ambitions of the burghers of Bruges and Ghent. When seaborne trade gave way to container lorries grinding up the motorways, however, the more picturesque Flemish cities pulled in the tourists and, as Brussels became the headquarters of the European Community, Antwerp faded.

The city is still Europe's second largest port, but the docks have shifted to the north of the city, leaving the old problem of derelict land where the inner city port used to be.

Bob Cooks, Antwerp's mayor, hopes to use the culture vesp to persuade developers

financiers and city fathers to breathe life into this area. Amid the drab harbour frontage sprouts the occasional art gallery decorated in salmon pink, or studio in broad zebra stripes. Red and white striped windsocks fly outside fashionable loft conversions.

The beauty of mile upon mile of seafront waterfront buildings is that almost any experiment will improve it.

The city centre bustles, and it has some traditional Flemish buildings, but it is turned away from the river and has clearly been too busy to worry greatly about preserving its architecture. The famous zoo,

tucked next to the main railway station, looks out over utterly ordinary urban clutter and a hoarding for that well-known Flemish retail outlet, the Sun Wah supermarket.

Antwerp has seen, however, that pushing Flemish culture depends on having a local economy busy enough to support it up to the neck. With the local boom of the last decade, the city should reap benefits.

Antwerp's image to outsiders is chiefly drawn from its 16th-century fame and wealth — and its continuing position as the centre of Europe's diamond trade.

If you work in Brussels, as a

number of Antwerpers do, you pull into the station on a Friday night past the lights of the *menorah* candles marking the start of the Jewish sabbath.

The polyglot make-up of Antwerp will be reflected in 1993 in programmes of Turkish and Moroccan music, which aim to create a permanent taste for those styles in the city.

Tall ships will cluster on the Schelde, and programme organisers are importing Chinese pavement performers never seen before in the West.

And "art" art? It is being built by Bob van Reeht, an architect. The ark, resembling a giant parking cone, will be built on a barge. Also in 1993, the Bourla theatre, one of Europe's oldest and smallest, built in 1834, will reopen.

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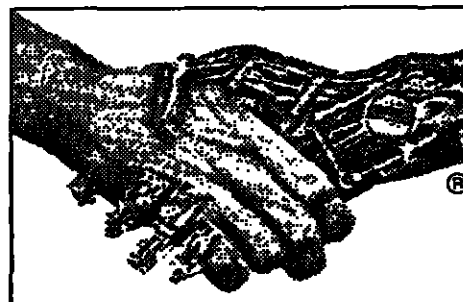
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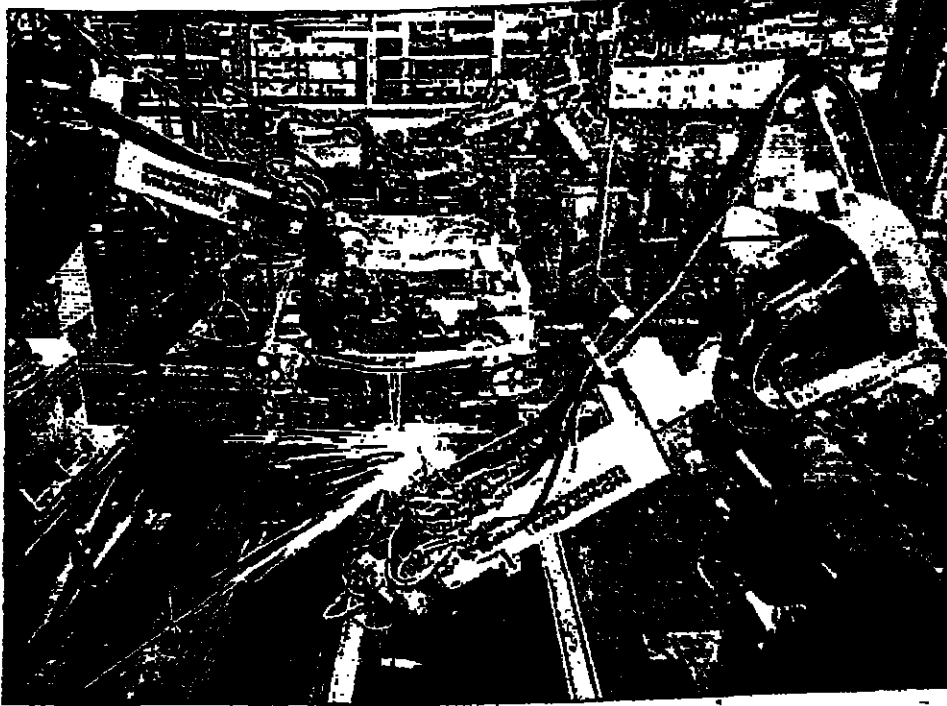
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Hand in hand: a man and his boy drag a hand-plough across a field, but the symbol of Flanders industry is a handshake between human and robot. The General Motors plant outside Antwerp (right), uses robots to fuel a vibrant economy

A country is reflected well by its economy. Belgium, small as it is, has two quite distinct economies. Flanders, geographically the smaller of Belgium's two principal regions, is not only the more populous and politically dominant part of the country but is also richer than Wallonia.

To the uninitiated traveller, the wealth of Flanders might at first seem incomprehensible. The canals and church towers of its medieval cities of Bruges and Ghent, and the flat rural countryside along the motorways and railways, give little indication of where and how the wealth is generated.

The impression of a rural Flanders is deceptive, however. Only 3 per cent of its output is generated by agriculture, while around 60 per cent comes from trade and services, an average level by western European standards.

The benchmark economic sta-

Rural view hides trading muscle

The region enjoys low unemployment, high productivity and is the powerhouse of the Belgian economy. Wolfgang Münchau reports

tistics are impressive. At the beginning of last year, the Flanders' unemployment rate was 4.2 per cent, one of the lowest in Europe, against 5.8 per cent for the whole of Belgium. The rate for the rest of the country, Wallonia and Brussels combined, is 7.9 per cent, almost twice as high.

Economic growth is on a par with Germany and The Netherlands, and a remarkable 63 per cent of gross national product goes into exports, one of the highest proportions in Europe.

Historically, Flanders owes its economic success to its specialised traders and craftsmen, such as the carpet-weavers of Kortrijk. The region has a large number of privately-owned companies, rep-

resentative of old money, although some of them, like Bekaert, a multinational producer of steel wire and cord, outgrew medium-sized company status a long time ago.

Flanders owes much of its recent success to its location, and principally to the economic pull of Brussels, which the Belgians unashamedly call "the capital of Europe". This has led to an unexpected economic windfall of increased inward investment, particularly in service industries.

With its four seaports — Ostend,

Zeebrugge, Ghent and Antwerp — Flanders has the highest seaport concentration by area in the world, complemented by an impressive network of waterways and motorways.

Antwerp, to the north of Brussels, was described by Henry Kissinger, the former United States Secretary of State, as "the centrepiece of Europe". Few Belgian cities defy the widespread image of the country as a bureaucrats' enclave as forcefully as Antwerp.

The industrial capital of Flan-

ders, Antwerp is best known for its seaport, Europe's second largest, coming after Rotterdam. Antwerp is also the centre of Europe's diamond trade, an old industry whose methods have changed little over the years. A steady hand and a craftsman's skills are all that is required.

Modern industry is established on the city's outskirts, and includes two large car plants operated by General Motors, one of which boasts some of the highest productivity in the industry.

Flanders is the largest car-producing area per head of population in Europe, an impressive feat considering Belgium does not have a national car-maker.

Apart from General Motors in Antwerp, Ford produces cars in Genk and Renault in Vilvoorde, near Brussels. The region also has other large industries, including chemicals, electronics and textiles.

The Flemish achievement owes little to macroeconomic policy. Belgium has scant economic autonomy, having ceded most of its economic powers when it agreed to a fixed link between the franc and the Deutschmark.

Nor has taxation had much of an impact, as Belgian levels are in the process of coming down to

converge with the European average. Income taxes may still be marginally higher than in Britain and Germany, but corporate taxes, now 41 per cent, will next year come down to 39 per cent.

Flanders' success is perhaps best defined as a ruthless exploitation of a fortunate geographical and geopolitical location, and its people's business sense.

Looking ahead, Flanders is fearful that its historical role as the gateway to the Continent might not be sustainable in the future, and that the "centrepiece" of Europe might gradually be moving south.

One reason for the fears is the failure to establish Brussels as the hub of Europe's airways.

British Airways and KLM tried, unsuccessfully, to take a significant share in Sabena, the Belgian national airline.

Another threat to Flanders is the Channel tunnel, which might reduce ferry traffic.

The good sits with the bad and the ugly

Flemish beauty is marred by the beast of pollution. Helen Young reports

Powder-fine white sand covers a seemingly endless broad expanse of beach. Behind it lie acres of grass-covered dunes, marshlands smothered in sea lavender in summer, and one of the world's largest natural bird sanctuaries.

The scene would be idyllic except that the sea is the most polluted in Europe. Industrial ports with their refineries and oil tankers are on the horizon. The gale-force winds and rain which lash the coast from about October to May prove trying for all but the bravest.

The paradox of stunningly beautiful scenery and architecture sitting cheek by jowl with the worst imaginable is a feature of Flanders.

The Flemish have made the most of their 40-mile coastline, which lies in the province of West Flanders. Twenty well-equipped resorts fan out north and south of Ostend.

As holiday destinations for the Belgians, and the neighbouring Dutch and Germans, they are unrivalled. But even at the peak of summer, with enough sun to turn these north Europeans a shade of fire-engine red, only the hardiest dare to venture more than ankle-deep into the cold North Sea.

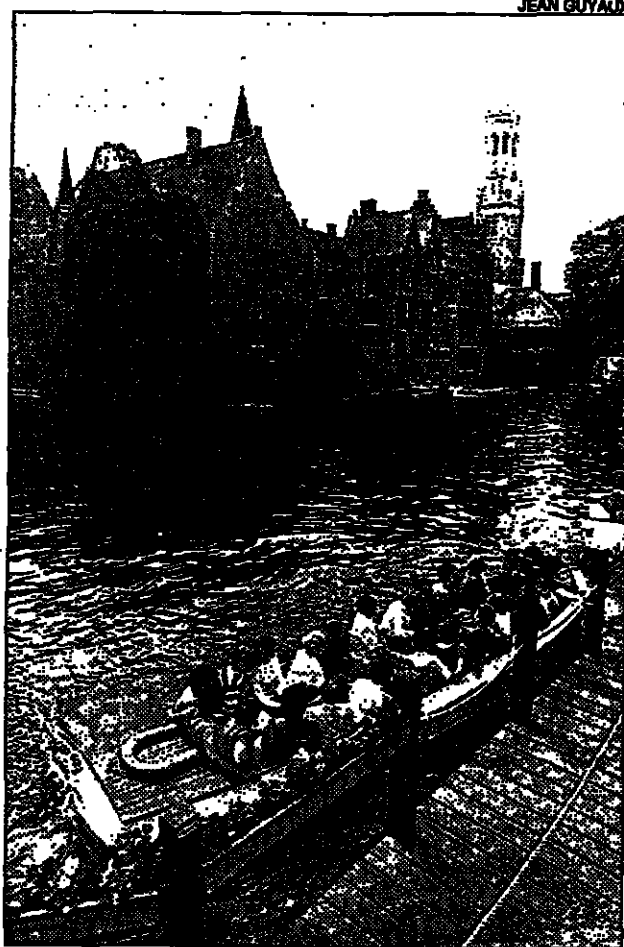
The most exclusive of the resorts is Knokke, close to the

Dutch border in the north. A parade of upmarket shops, hotels, restaurants and cafes spans the wide beach. At the centre is an art deco casino, built in the Thirties, with eight immense murals by René Magritte, the Belgian surrealist, and, allegedly, the largest chandelier in the world.

The beach is dotted with white bathing huts, where vendors hire out beach chairs for the day. When tourists are not soaking up the sun, they can rent a bicycle, or a bicycle-built-for-two on which the riders sit side by side, and pedal up and down the seven-mile boulevard.

Further north along the coast is Het Zoute, the home from home for the Belgian aristocracy. Built in 1910, this well-heeled watering-hole illustrates another feature of the Flemish mentality: they love orderliness and uniformity. All the houses in Het Zoute are virtually identical, with regulation-height white walls and bright red roofs; even modern shops and petrol stations are forced to conform to the exacting code.

The streets, however, are allowed to wind and curve in interesting patterns, and these eventually lead to Het Zwin, a 370-acre nature reserve where, on a clear day from the highest



Venice of the North: Bruges is untouched by the new

of the dunes, one can see all the way to Bruges.

The first stop on a tour inland has to be the spectacular city of Bruges, known as the "Venice of the North". The city is practically untouched by the ravages of the modern age. Small boats with outboard motors take tourists on the canals. Bruges has hundreds of arched bridges, winding lanes and houses still intact from the Middle Ages.

Lier, about six miles south of Antwerp, also has winding canals, picturesque bridges and authentic 18th century houses. A world-renowned astronomical clock and a

16th-century *beginning*, or convent, are highlights of this small community.

The dichotomy between the wonderful and the awful in Flanders is nowhere so apparent as in Antwerp, at the heart of the region today. The port area is daunting. But the centre is a complete contrast. There is the diamond centre in the Jewish quarter near the central station, which is being regilded and cleaned of its grime.

The shopping district centres on the Meir, at the top of which is Antwerp cathedral; the old port has bars, jazz clubs and a red light district.

Place in the heartland

An industrial

leader says

Belgium will fade

from the scene as

Flanders becomes

part of a rich centre

of the Continent



Europe view: André Leysen

André Leysen, aged 63, the executive chairman of the Agfa-Gevaert group, the film manufacturers, is regarded by many as Belgium's most famous industrialist (Wolfgang Münchau writes).

This is partly due to his wide-ranging interests in the country, which include his ownership of *De Standaard*, the respected Flemish newspaper, and his success at Agfa-Gevaert, which is now a fully-owned subsidiary of Bayer, the German chemical group.

Nowadays he spends more time outside his office in Mortsel, near Antwerp. His responsibilities include supervisory positions in some of Europe's best-known companies, including Bayer, Philips, Hazpag-Lloyd and BMW. He was also the first foreigner to be appointed to the board of the Treuhänder, the German privatisation agency responsible for eastern Germany.

A cynic might say that a Belgian has little alternative but to be outward-looking, because the country is so small.

"The greatest disappointment about devolution in

Belgium," he concedes, referring to the process of decentralisation, which has given greater powers to the regions, "is that the same old mistakes which were made on the national level are now being made on the regional level. We are now paying the price of 20 years of political indecision."

Mr Leysen is referring to the corrupt system of political appointments, largely based on old-style nepotism, and to incompetent economic management, which allowed the national debt to rise to 125 per cent of GNP. This, he complains, has resulted in a starvation of funds for public service infrastructure, and for tele-

worked in an American, a French and a German company?" he asks. Many, like his own grandchildren, grow up bilingual. Most speak Dutch and French fluently. They learn English at the age of six, and German soon after.

Mr Leysen's view of the Flanders of the future is less as part of Belgium, more as a European region, one of its more prosperous. He is an outspoken Euro-regionalist, who maintains that Europe's industrial heartland will not be contained within the boundary of any one or two countries, but will be made of cross-border regions, linking the south of Germany, the north of Italy, western France, and a stretch to the north, along the Rhine, including parts of Belgium and The Netherlands.

"We have no political ambitions," he says about Flanders. "We can act in a rational manner. In our history we have been occupied by almost everyone, but that allows us to act as a kind of fertiliser between the various cultures." He believes Belgium is like old soldiers "who won't die, but simply fade away".

Developers dig gold in old mines

THE huge field outside the town of Hasselt, in the province of Limburg, bears few reminders of times past: one or two slag-heaps, some sludge pans and dilapidated chimneys which indicate the presence of a coal-mine. Hasselt and its neighbouring communities used to be a centre of Belgian industry, with six coal-mines, but five have closed and the survivor will close in about a year.

Now there is a £140 million project, named ERC (education, recreation and culture), to turn the mines into one of Europe's largest leisure parks, attracting five million people a year (writes Wolfgang Münchau).

The man behind the project is Thyl Gheysels, regarded by some of the people of Hasselt as either a genius, or a dreamer. A former vice-president of Shell, he was brought to Limburg by the government in late 1986 to sort out the loss-making mines.

"Doing my calculations, I found that the mines would lose no more money if all the miners were put on 365 days a year holiday," he says. The miners were offered a payoff of Bfr 800,000 net (£13,500) plus a retraining package and a pension if they agreed to leave. The offer, Mr Gheysels claims, exceeded the unions' demands, and most of the 20,000 accepted immediately. At present there are 2,000 left.

Limburg is close to The Netherlands and Germany, and about 50 minutes' drive from Brussels. Architects from every European country have been invited to produce plans for buildings.

At the ERC entrance, according to the plans, there will be a "Euro-town" representing the architecture and lifestyles of Europe and designed to create the sense of

a living community. Inside the park there will be museums, cinemas, film workshops, an amphitheatre seating 50,000, a football stadium, hotels, gardens and a lake.

The entrance to the mine, which was built in the early

part of the century, and has attractive archways and neo-classical architecture, will serve as the frame of a central piazza, to be designed by an Italian architect. The football stadium has already been built; the only requirement is a decent football team.

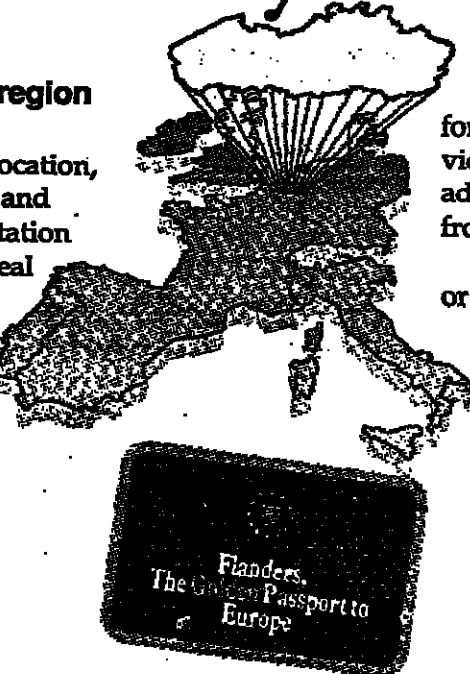
The amphitheatre will be built on the slopes of the coal-pits, overlooking the lake, which is at present a sludge pan. Plants are being tested to see which have the best chance of growing on the infertile grounds: birch-trees are among the favourites.

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A MAN OF VISION

A story of innovation

It takes innovative thinking, untold patience and total dedication to create genuinely useful medicines. Yet, at Janssen Pharmaceutica, they have a reputation for achieving it with astounding regularity. The company was founded in Flanders (Belgium) in 1953, by Dr. Paul Janssen, a man of outstanding vision. Since then, the company's research teams have synthesized 89,000 New Chemical Entities (NCEs) and have studied them for their pharmacological activity and potential use as new medicines.

This has led to the introduction of over 70 new medicines which are now available in 150 countries. On average that's a new medicine every six months. A remarkable success rate in this complex and critical field. Independent analysts point out that the Janssen success ratio of discovering one beneficial drug in 1,200 NCEs compares with an industry average of one in 10,000!

Currently 23 potentially new drugs are actively being developed in medical studies spanning the areas of allergy, anaesthesia and analgesia, cardiovascular disease, gastroenterology, mycology, neurology, oncology, parasitology, psychiatry and virology.

The differentiating factor

So what makes Janssen Pharmaceutica so different? First and foremost there is the vision of its founder, Dr. Paul Janssen. A qualified Medical Doctor and Pharmacologist, Dr. Janssen was motivated by his belief that there were many medical problems for which there were no cures and for which effective drugs were needed in the interest of the suffering.

It was this personal motivation coupled with a determination to succeed and an ability to inspire others which ultimately led to the formation of Janssen Pharmaceutica in Flanders. Today, just 38 years later, the company has developed into a leading international pharmaceutical enterprise. A member of the Johnson and Johnson Family of Companies, Janssen employs 10,000 world-wide, with affiliates in 32 countries.

In recognition of his many contributions to pharmacological research, Dr. Janssen has been the recipient of no less than 12 Honorary Doctorates from universities throughout the world. Within Europe these include the University of Lund (Sweden), the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University (Frankfurt, Germany) and the University of Granada (Spain). In North America, recognition for his work include the Gairdner Foundation Award, Toronto, and the Johnson Medal for Extraordinary Achievements.

In the United Kingdom Dr. Janssen is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former Visiting Professor in Medical Science at King's College, University of London.

Research built around people

The remarkable success of Janssen Pharmaceutica's research organization finds its roots in Dr. Janssen's three basic research philosophies. First, he insists that research projects must be built around people rather than the other way round. Second, he says, once you have found the people with the right kind of expertise, motivation and team spirit, let them do what they can do best and keep hierarchical interference to a minimum. Last but not least, Dr. Janssen has always been emphatic about letting research determine its own course, as this will maximize the chance of recognizing the potential benefit of unexpected observations.

The results of this approach speak for themselves:

In the last two decades the importance of fungal diseases in Man has become widely recognized. Janssen has been at the forefront of antifungal research since the sixties, when a new group of compounds was discovered, known as imidazole derivatives. These were the first class of compounds to possess potent activity against a broad range of fungi that cause disease. This was followed by the introduction of the first orally active broad-spectrum antifungal, now widely used against a range of skin infections and vaginal thrush. And it can save the lives of patients suffering from potentially fatal fungal infections of the internal organs.

In the treatment of allergic disease, such as hayfever, the effectiveness of conventional antihistamines is limited by the drowsiness they cause in many patients. In the 1970s Janssen researchers took on the challenge to produce a new class of antihistamines that would not cause drowsiness. This was achieved with the development of the first once-a-day, non-sedating antihistamine which has meanwhile earned a strong reputation all over the world.



Dr. Paul Janssen

Ahead in brain research

Before the advent of effective therapy in the 1950s, schizophrenic patients were locked away in mental hospitals, often in strait jackets. Janssen researchers have been among the world's principal pioneers in developing modern antipsychotic medicines that have sharply reduced the need for hospitalization and have vastly improved the schizophrenic patient's quality of life. Janssen is also investigating promising new medicines for anxiety, depression and sleep disorders.

Until the mid 1900s, the only anaesthetic agents were ether, chloroform and nitrous oxide. Anaesthesia has made tremendous advances since then, helped in part by anaesthetic agents discovered by Janssen investigators.

Today, anaesthetists everywhere routinely give modern intravenous Janssen analgesics to control pain during and after an operation. These compounds have helped open the way to new anaesthetic techniques that permit heart transplant operations and major brain surgery. The first individual ever to receive an artificial heart was anaesthetized with a product of Janssen research.

Flying to the moon

Janssen has been a leading company in gastroenterology since the 1960s. When Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the moon in 1969, his medical kit contained one of the earliest products of Janssen research, a highly specific antidiarrhoeal drug.

Research in gastroenterology remains a key priority. A completely new drug to treat various digestive disorders by enhancing the movement of the gut has recently been made available to doctors. In clinical trials it has proved life saving for a number of newborn babies in whom the digestive process does not function properly at birth.

History shows that Man has been plagued by worm infections for hundreds of years. Even the Ancient Egyptians feared them. And in the 1800s hookworm infections were a major threat to the lives of minors. Today, infestation by nematode worms is one of the most important issues in the Third World. Likewise, infestation with pinworm is one of the commonest diseases, approaching 100 per cent of the population in some countries. Reliable treatment of parasitic worms was made possible by the development of broad-spectrum anthelmintic (de-wormer) compounds. One such Janssen medicine is regarded world-wide as the most effective drug for the treatment of worm infections, not only in humans but also in small and large animals.

And down to earth

A major cause of death is cancer. It is unlikely that there will ever be any miracle cure, but important advances have been made in the understanding of particular forms of cancer. One Janssen drug featured large in the medical press last year as it proved highly valuable as adjuvant anti-cancer therapy in patients who had undergone surgery for the removal of an intestinal tumour.

It is said that "modern doctors can do everything but cure the common cold". Yet, a Janssen antiviral substance shows promise in preventing the onset of cold symptoms and even more effective compounds are undergoing study.

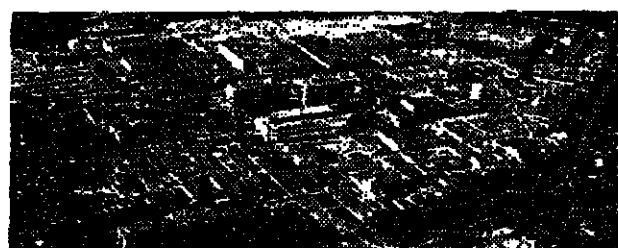
Another new compound has shown to enhance memory in experimental situations and is now being tested in the disease that impairs the quality of so many people's old age: senile dementia.

A vision of the future

Without question, Dr. Paul Janssen's greatest achievement has been his foresight to design and develop a solid team of expert research scientists with a sense of dedication and the will to succeed. And so today, some 38 years after its foundation, Janssen remains a company deeply rooted in innovative research aimed at a better understanding of disease processes and at finding newer and better medicines that will make an original contribution to medical practice.

In the words of Dr. Paul Janssen:

"There are still many diseases for which no cure exists and for which effective drugs must be found quickly, in the interest of all who are suffering. We like to think that we have helped to solve some of these problems. But we will continue, because there is so much more that needs to be done."



JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICA, 2340 BEERSE, BELGIUM

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your small total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Close	Div
1	Nax Amc Bk	Bank/Finance	10.00	0.10
2	CIA Op	Paper/Print/Adv	10.00	0.10
3	Lalla Wm Op	Drugs/Stores	10.00	0.10
4	Johnson Chem	Industrials E-K	10.00	0.10
5	Haworth	Industrials E-K	10.00	0.10
6	Dowdy	Motor/Aircraft	10.00	0.10
7	Uthman	Oil/Gas	10.00	0.10
8	Wm (Whitbread)	Drugs/Stores	10.00	0.10
9	East On	Industrials E-K	10.00	0.10
10	Wm (Whitbread)	Drugs/Stores	10.00	0.10
11	East On	Industrials E-K	10.00	0.10
12	East On	Industrials E-K	10.00	0.10
13	East On	Industrials E-K	10.00	0.10
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49	East On	Industrials E-K	10.00	0.10
50	East On	Industrials E-K	10.00	0.10

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX LINKED

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

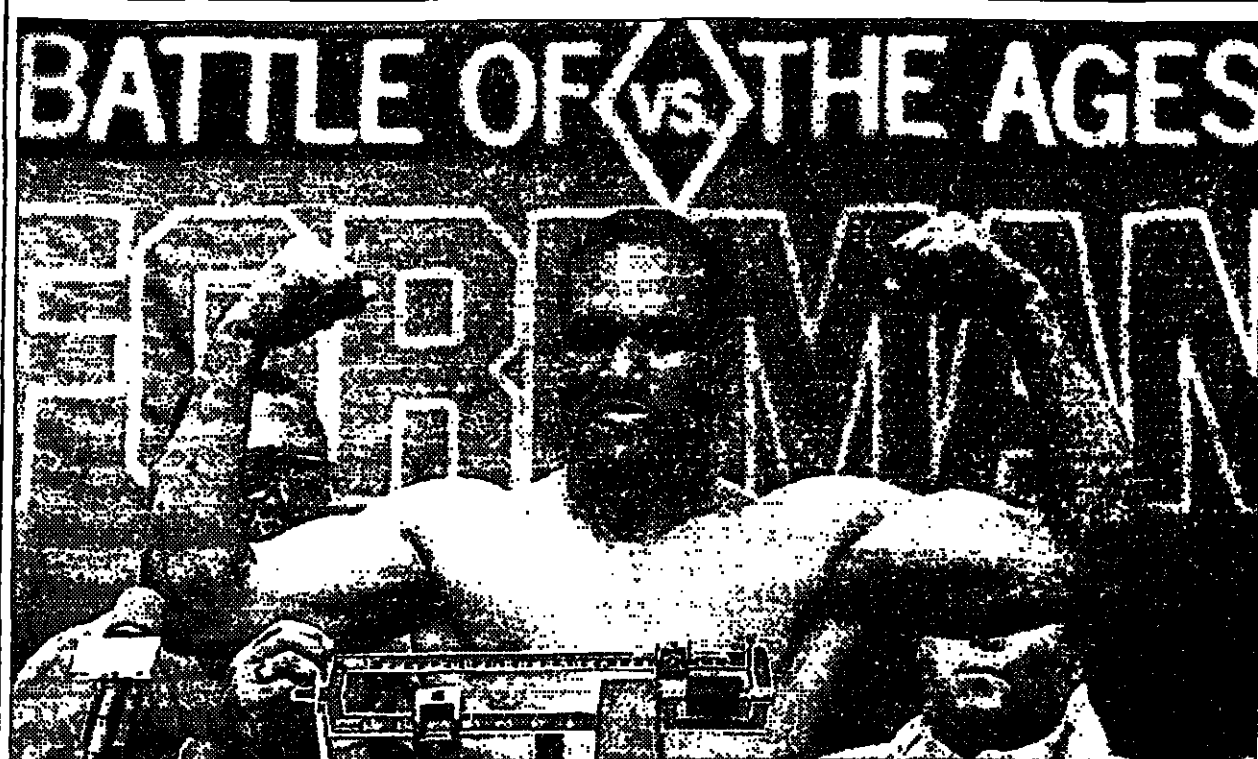
STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares lack support

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 15. Dealings end April 26. Contango day April 29. Settlement day May 7.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Category	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
BREWERIES	Asahi Brew	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Beck's Brew	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Carlsberg	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Heineken	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	King's Brew	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Brew	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Miller Brew	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Stout Brew	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Tate Brew	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Watson Brew	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
BUILDING, ROADS	Amey	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Balfour Beatty	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Bechtel	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Chambers	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Costain	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Heathcote	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	James Watson	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Laing	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Mowlem	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Worleyparsons	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
ELECTRICITY	British Elec	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Central Elec	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Edinburgh Elec	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Electricity	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Elec	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Northumbria	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Powergen	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Scottish Elec	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Southern Elec	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	West Midlands	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
FINANCE, LAND	Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Barclays Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	First Nat Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Halifax Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Midland Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Natwest Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Paragon Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Prudential	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Yorkshire Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
FINANCIAL TRUSTS	British Trust	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Equity Trust	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Financial Trust	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Investment Trust	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Trust	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Northumbria	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Powergen	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Scottish Trust	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Southern Trust	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	West Midlands	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
FOODS	Asda	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Boys	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Co-operative	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Decca	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	First Nat Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Halifax Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Midland Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Natwest Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Paragon Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
HOTELS, CATERERS	Asda	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Boys	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Co-operative	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Decca	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	First Nat Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Halifax Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Midland Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Natwest Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Paragon Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
INDUSTRIALS A-D	Asda	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Boys	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Co-operative	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Decca	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	First Nat Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Halifax Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Midland Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Natwest Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Paragon Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING	Asda	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Boys	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Co-operative	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Decca	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	First Nat Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Halifax Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Midland Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Natwest Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Paragon Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
PROPERTY	Asda	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Boys	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Co-operative	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Decca	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	First Nat Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Halifax Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Midland Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Natwest Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Paragon Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
SHOES, LEATHER	Asda	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Boys	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Co-operative	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Decca	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	First Nat Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Halifax Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Midland Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Natwest Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Paragon Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
TEXTILES	Asda	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Boys	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Co-operative	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Decca	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	First Nat Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
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	London Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Midland Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Natwest Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Paragon Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
MOTORS, AIRCRAFT	Asda	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Boys	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Co-operative	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Decca	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	First Nat Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
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	London Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Midland Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Natwest Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Paragon Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
TOBACCOS	Asda	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Boys	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Co-operative	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Decca	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	First Nat Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Halifax Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Midland Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Natwest Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Paragon Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
TRANSPORT	Asda	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Boys	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Co-operative	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Decca	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	First Nat Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Halifax Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Midland Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Natwest Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Paragon Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
WATER	Asda	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Boys	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Co-operative	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Decca	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	First Nat Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Halifax Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	London Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Midland Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Natwest Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0
	Paragon Bank	10.00	0.10	1.0%	10.0



Holyfield: "I am much faster. I would expect to out-punch George three or four to one"



Foreman: "He cuts the ring down well. He stalks steadily. You can't run from Foreman"

Foreman has the credentials to confound logic

From SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
ATLANTIC CITY

FRIENDS and opponents of boxing wait in fearful anticipation to see what happens when George Foreman challenges Evander Holyfield.

For the undisputed world heavyweight championship here tonight.

Forgotten are the one-liners about Big George's appetite and the bible-punch lines of the preacher man from Humble, Texas, who saw a vision of God in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 14 years ago.

Now, simply a bald middle-aged man of 42, "slow as molasses", is facing a young man of 27, fast as a speed ball.

Will they see boxing finally plunge into the depths of degradation as Holyfield, with quick spearing jabs, mutilates the soft round face of the helpless big man. Or, as Dr Ferdie Pacheco, who used to be Muhammad Ali's

physician, says, will the strain prove too much for the big old fighter and bring on a heart attack?

Are death and degradation the only alternatives? Is it really a "no contest", a mismatch? One cannot be certain, although the move to bring in Angelo Dundee to assist the 77-year-old Archie Moore in Foreman's corner could be interpreted as a safety measure, just in case someone has to take the decision to jump in and stop the fight.

If there was any way of telling with certainty that Foreman had no chance and was in bigger danger than most boxers who enter the ring, the man from the BMA would be sitting in my seat alongside the absolutists ringside, while I would be sitting in a betting shop back in London putting my house on Holyfield.

Since it is impossible to be absolutely sure about the outcome - I believe it could

be 52-48 in Holyfield's favour - and a case can be made for a Foreman victory, the bout looks as valid as any contest in which no-hopers, cocaine addicts and shot fighters have been accepted by the same absolutists as legitimate opponents for a man even more fearsome than Holyfield, Mike Tyson.

It is difficult to start drawing boundary lines in a sport that has seen degradation and death so many times in rather more squalid circumstances. As Foreman says: "What is the world coming to? Why put me down? By putting me down they are really putting themselves down. The 40-year-old man may have to fight for his country, get married, change diapers."

As Gerry Callahan, of the *Boston Herald*, said: "The least fight people can do is wait until Friday before we call him a fat slob."

No more worthy a fight person than you find than

TALE OF THE TAPE

Holyfield	Foreman
Age 42	Age 27
Weight 165lb	Weight 235lb
Height 6ft 2 1/2in	Height 6ft 4in
Reach 77 1/2in	Reach 79in
Stance Orthodox	Stance Orthodox
Boxing Style Brawler	Boxing Style Brawler
Record 25 wins, no defeats, 21 knockouts	Record 24 wins, no defeats, 23 knockouts

Eddie Futch, who used to be in Joe Frazier's corner. Futch was appalled when Foreman returned four years ago after an absence of ten years from the ring, but recently he said: "It's a young man's game, but once in a while you find one who is an exception. I think that exception is George Foreman."

Not only can one make a case for Foreman, but it is

also possible to make a better case than for Holyfield.

Foreman has only one drawback: he is very slow and speed could prove the all-important factor in the fight. Holyfield has many more problems. He lacks natural movement and is little more than a blow-up cruiserweight.

Whereas Foreman is totally relaxed to the point of looking on the 19,000 crowd at the Convention Center as his congregation back in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in Humble, Holyfield is beset with serious personal and business worries. He is so tight before a fight that he has to be kneaded and pummelled into suppleness minutes before going into the ring.

Strangely enough Foreman's age and bulk are his greatest assets. They have not only made him box at a pace that suits him - two speeds, slow and stop - but

also forces his opponents to slow down as well.

Foreman's comfortable pace could put the pressure on Holyfield, who must make up his mind whether to back off when Foreman comes for him or go to the big man.

Until Foreman begins to get the upper hand, he limits himself to the simple tactic of striding purposefully across the ring with crossed arms to cut the ring down. He thus makes his opponent do all the thinking, which can be quite a confusing process when you see him coming. He walks you down.

"He cuts the ring down very well," Futch says. "He stalks steadily. That's why Muhammad Ali had to come up with the rope-a-dope. You can't run from Foreman."

Despite Holyfield's speed and fitness it is possible to see the champion having trouble getting past Foreman's jab, which is a very

heavy one. As Angelo Dundee says: "When he hits the heavy bag George doesn't move but the bag does tricks."

However, if Holyfield manages to get through and loose-off his combinations, Foreman could be in serious trouble. His age could suddenly catch up with him and start a rapid disorientation process from which there could be no recovery. But Futch says: "I don't see Holyfield winning by KO. If Holyfield can stay away from him for the first five rounds he will win, but if he is in there like the Holyfield I have seen so many times, Foreman will get him out of there."

Holyfield also hopes to go in with one simple fight plan: to drive Foreman into the refuge behind crossed arms and rain blows on him.

"I am much faster," Holyfield said. "I would expect to out-punch George three or four to one. You

might think it is better for me to stay outside but I expect to be on the inside."

Holyfield's trainer, George Benton, said: "He's [Foreman] safety first. You throw punches at him and he covers up. If he is busy defending, he can't hit Evander. We can't let George get lucky. It is very important to make him miss. You make him miss and he becomes vulnerable."

Benton must have remembered what happened to Joe Frazier when the young old Foreman did not miss. "I told Joe to keep moving. It was working but not long enough. We had to pick Joe off the floor when it was all over."

"Foreman may be old, but he didn't lose any of his power. If he hits you with either hand you'd end up in the dearest SOB in the cemetery."

Which is where we came in.

EQUESTRIANISM

Thomas's course is a test for the best

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE leading six riders from the world three-day event championships in Stockholm last year - led by New Zealand's world champion, Blyth Tait, and Messiah - are all competing in the Whitbread championship at Badminton from May 2 to 5.

The high-class field includes Virginia Leng, on Master Craftsman - the European champion, and winners at Badminton in 1989 - and Ian Stark, with Murphy Himself, the silver medal winners at the world championships. It should provide an appropriate swansong for Whitbread, which ends its 30-year association with Badminton in December.

Thomas has designed this year's course with the European championships in Ireland in September in mind - an Irish bank is included for the first time in nearly 20 years. The course is less technical than last year, but looks more imposing.

Many of the 30 fences on the four-and-a-half mile course are of maximum height (3ft 11in) and width (9ft 2in). Most are positioned in a way which taxes the mutual trust between horse and rider to the limit.

Fence five - the first of 12 new ones - is a maximum-size post and rail with a big open ditch. Thomas says it is intended to make riders realise early in the course that Badminton is "a different cup of tea" from any other event.

There is plenty more evidence. At the quarry, fence six, the jump out is a 3ft 11in high log pile on the top of a disconcertingly steep slope. Fence ten, the Beaufort staircase, involves five very accurate jumping efforts. Henry's Corner, fence 17, allows little margin for error if riders take the quick route over the point of a zig-zag.

Tait, the runner-up to Nicola Coe last year, is likely to start as joint favourite with Leng. Other leading riders among the 101 entries include Bruce Davidson, of the United States, on Pirate Lion, and Mark Todd, New Zealand's dual Olympic champion, on Walton Greyling.

Manchester claims pole position

By JOHN GOODBODY

MANCHESTER sees itself as the city in possession of Britain's nomination to stage the Olympic Games. It considers London as the challenger for 2000.

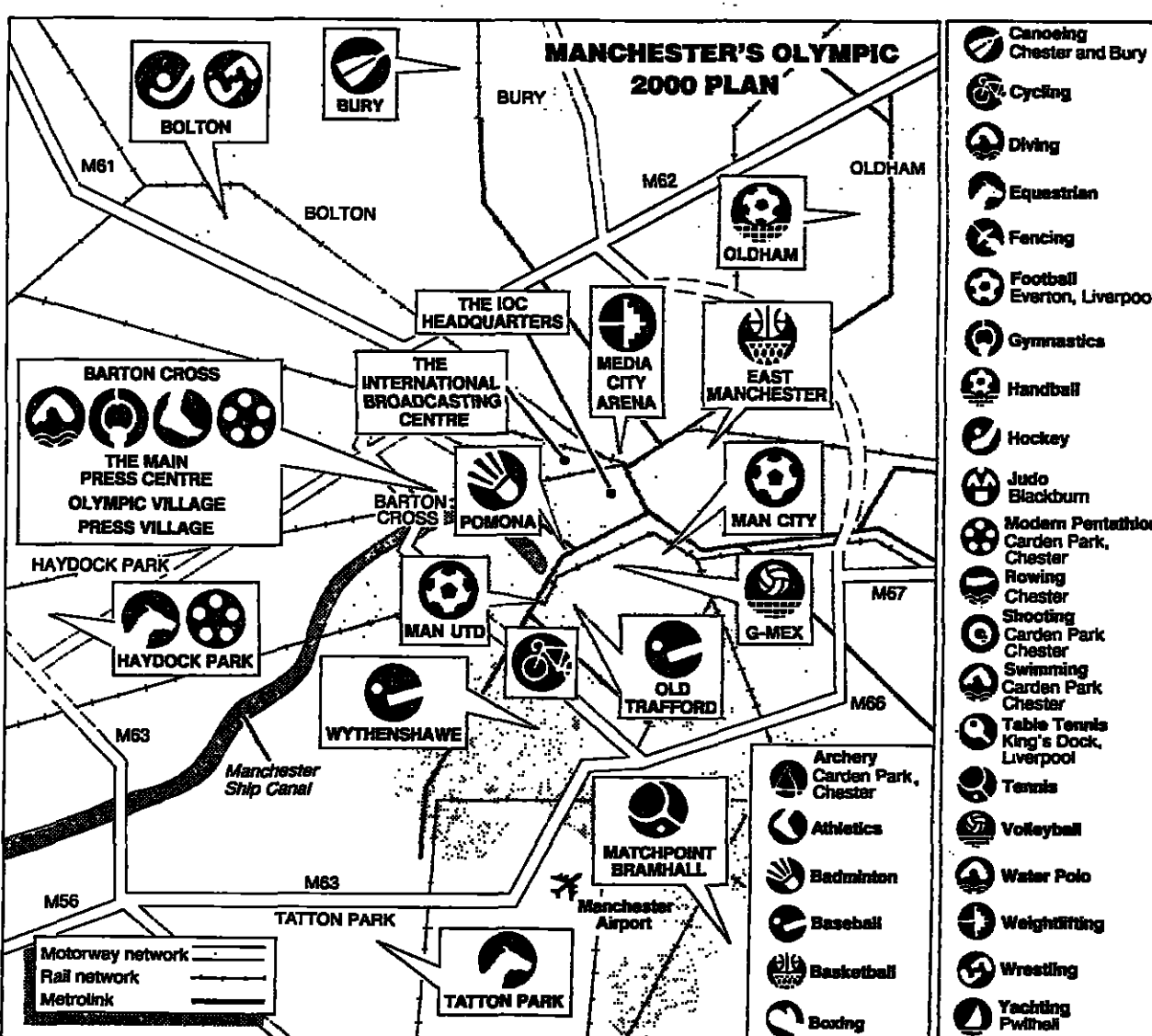
Bob Scott, the chairman of the bid committee, said yesterday: "Manchester is not the glamorous choice but the romantic choice, and also the honest choice." This is a dilemma which the members of the British Olympic Association (BOA) have to resolve on Wednesday, when they vote on whether either city should go forward to the vote of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at its 1993 session and, if so, which one.

Scott, who led Manchester's unsuccessful campaign to get the 1996 Olympic Games, likened the new bid to the 1951 Festival of Britain. "It will mark a new beginning, not just for sport but for British society," Scott said. "As an Olympic city, the old image of Manchester would simply evaporate. One would have a new image of a modern city with a participating society."

London, he said, is a "heartbeat" city, like Paris or New York. It would continue during an Olympic Games. However, Manchester would come to a halt just as Southport comes to a halt when the Open golf championship is played at Birkdale.

Scott hoped that the BOA members would regard the campaign for the 1996 Games as a good start rather than a failure. He pointed out that Lillehammer gained only 11 votes for the 1992 Winter Olympics, but persisted for the 1994 Games, winning the final decision.

Scott agreed that London was a tourist attraction but argued that he expected everybody who came to Manchester from abroad for an Olympic Games would probably visit London. He said: "In fact, London, paradoxically, would benefit more from tourists if Manchester got the Games rather than the capital. When Los Angeles



staged the 1984 Games, southern California had its worst ever year for tourists. They simply stayed away."

If London were to get the BOA nomination, Scott said, other candidates, like Peking or Sydney, would argue that London had already twice staged the event (1908 and 1948) and was seeking a third Games, whereas Manchester had never staged them. This argument could not be used if Manchester were to be Britain's representative. The IOC awards Games to cities, not to countries.

Like the capital, Manchester has a strong case,

although neither city now has the most important facilities, particularly the Olympic village, stadium and swimming complex. Manchester has 14 venues in existence and aims to have a further eight under construction by 1993. It knows that a main reason why it did not secure the 1996 event was because of the absence of completed venues.

The BOA insists that if either city gets its nomination then it must agree to build three new facilities within the next two-and-a-half years. For Manchester, these might include the new arena in Bolton for wrestling, the

King's Dock Arena in Liverpool for table tennis and the yachting in Pwllheli in north Wales.

Manchester still hopes that a start will have been made on the main stadium, which will probably be located at Barton Cross on the Manchester Ship Canal, and will interest the Football Association as a new national stadium and also Manchester City, who may move from Maine Road.

The Barton Cross complex would be ideal because the athletic stadium, swimming pool and main arena would be adjacent to the Olympic village. The Manchester team has had six years of campaigning. It is well tried and trusted and has enthusiastic support from sportsmen like Steve Cram, Howard Kendall, Bobby Charlton and Allan Wells.

It knows the problems of bringing the Games to Britain and estimates its expenditure on running the Games, at 2000 price levels, at £616 million and the capital cost at £803 million, yet still expects to make a surplus of £191 million. Bob Scott said: "It is a more than £1 billion project, but getting the Games is a good bargain."

Granger also fails to agree with some of the ideas, particularly "aspects of testing", followed by Jürgen Grottel, the German coach of Leander Club and the man recently appointed by the ARA as "technical adviser" to the national squad. Leander won the Tideway

head and their members were prominent in last week's squad trials, but Granger considers that "the results from the trials show that no one group of athletes from any one club are performing significantly better than any other group, in spite of the hype we have heard."

Neil Thomas, the ARA president, said of Granger's resignation: "When it was offered, the ARA was very careful to give him time to consider."

Granger resigned from his post as international performance director for the Amateur Rowing Association a year after his appointment (Mike Rosewell writes).

According to Granger, problems arose with his former Warrington club-mate, Brian Armstrong, who became international rowing manager at the same time. "The distinction between the two roles became blurred," he said.

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RUGBY UNION

Harrison hungers for a second slice of the action

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Harrison is 35 today and looking forward to opening his presents. If long and distinguished service to the game of rugby means anything, they will include victory in either (or, for preference, both) Yorkshire's game with Cornwall at Twickenham tomorrow or Wakefield's final league match, at Plymouth, on April 27.

Success at Twickenham would give Yorkshire the ADT county championship, a title they last won in 1987, when Harrison was also captain. In the league, Wakefield, led by Harrison, are candidates for promotion to the first division, though their fate may depend upon others.

It is, then, a tolerably big week for the former England wing, who won the last of his 15 caps in 1988 - the year of five England captains of which he was the first and Will Carling the last - but Harrison's enthusiasm has not waned. He still demonstrates an affection for the county game, which will be reflected by a near-capacity attendance of 56,000 at Twickenham, and would have no objection to competing in the first division, even though most wings have passed their sell-by date at his age.

"You ask the lads up here what it means to them to play for Yorkshire in a final," he said, breaking off, not for the first time this week, from his duties as manager of the Wombwell branch of the National Westminster Bank, near Barnsley.

"Some of them will never get the opportunity to appear on

such a stage as a sell-out at Twickenham. It means such a lot to us and the same goes for Cornwall."

"We happen to be the bastions of the county game and it shows the interest that can be generated in the championship. Our lads still see it as a stepping stone to recognition beyond their clubs - I would never have got where I did without it."

Harrison led England in the inaugural World Cup in 1987, and has occupied some of the greatest stages of all, scoring tries in internationals in Christchurch and Wellington, New Zealand. Now he forms the hard core of experience, with Steve Townsend, his club colleague, and Peter Buckton and Simon Tipping in the pack, for Yorkshire, alongside such promising youngsters as Ison Georgiou, the centre, and Dave Scully, the bouncy scrum half.

Wakefield need London Irish to slip either tomorrow or next weekend, but Harrison would love a chance of first-division rugby. "It can only do the club good in the long term. The club administration is ready and we have a terrific second-team squad; if we get promoted we will attract more players and get more strength in depth."

"But that's next week. The final tomorrow is for everyone to enjoy and it's my job to make sure our players do and that they don't freeze. There's nothing worse than coming away from a match not having played to your potential. That's what happened to England against Wales in the World Cup. It would be dreadful if it happened again."

Cornish legions are on the march to London

CORNWALL'S rugby army is on the march this weekend, the six-hour journey to Twickenham from the far southwest resembling a modern-day Dunkirk (Peter Billa writes).

Any vehicle with sufficient capacity has been commandeered to transport around 30,000 supporters to the capital to see Cornwall play Yorkshire in the county championship final.

Apart from the championship - a competition they last won in 1908 - rugby in Cornwall is also making strides in other directions. Redruth are champions of division four south and will play in the national third division next season.

Terry Pryor, the Redruth coach, said: "It is the view of others apart from myself that Redruth's presence in division three is terribly important for the county."

Plymouth Albion. That should mean our improvement generally is maintained."

Interest in the sport throughout Cornwall is booming. The Cornish Brewery has guaranteed almost £30,000 in sponsorship to Redruth over a three-year period. "Local companies are queuing up to sponsor successful rugby clubs," Pryor said.

"Unlike so much of the country, rugby is still being played widely in Cornish schools. The lack of a professional football club in the area helps, so rugby receives all the attention."

Cornwall's legions at Twickenham may be deluding themselves as to the importance of the county championship. Pryor admits many of those making the pilgrimage will be unaware that the best players have not been involved in the competition.

"But if it helps to foster interest in the game, there is nothing really wrong with it," he said.

CYCLING

Ill wind blows Cammish off course

IAN Cammish is a frustrated record breaker (Peter Bryan writes). The first rider to average more than 30mph when he set a British-best time of 3hr 16min 56sec for a straight-out 100 miles last year, Cammish has been on red alert since March 1 to mount another series of record attempts.

But March was the calmest it has been for the last decade, without the strong south-

westerly winds to add to his pedalling power. This month, there have been gale-force winds coming from the northeast, the wrong direction for his attacks on the 25 and 50-mile distances.

Not that the sturdy St Ives professional has been inactive. Cammish has already won 15 time-trials and plans to add to that total tomorrow.

He has a busy day in prospect: a ten-mile trial at Tonbridge

before breakfast, lunch in the City with the Road Records Association, where he is a guest speaker, and then a dash to Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire, for another race at tea-time.

His frustrations are shared by Pauline Strong, his colleague in the Raleigh team, whose attempt to establish a record for the Cardiff to London run today was called off last night because of the persistent northeaster.

ROWING

Grainger resigns on principle

BRUCE Grainger has resigned from his post as international performance director for the Amateur Rowing Association a year after his appointment (Mike Rosewell writes).

According to Grainger, problems arose with his former Warrington club-mate, Brian Armstrong, who became international rowing manager at the same time. "The distinction between the two roles became blurred," he said.

"You can only have one boss within each area. It was as if I was no longer trusted and you cannot continue under those circumstances."

Granger also fails to agree with some of the ideas, particularly "aspects of testing", followed by Jürgen Grottel, the German coach of Leander Club and the man recently appointed by the ARA as "technical adviser" to the national squad. Leander won the Tideway

head and their members were prominent in last week's squad trials, but Granger considers that "the results from the trials show that no one group of athletes from any one club are performing significantly better than any other group, in spite of the hype we have heard."

Neil Thomas, the ARA president, said of Granger's resignation: "When it was offered, the ARA was very careful to give him time to consider."

The Times county-by-county guide by Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

DERBYSHIRE

1990: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 12th (W6 L7 D5). Refuge Assurance League: Champions (W12 L3 N/R1). Benson and Hedges Cup: Failed to qualify for quarter-finals. NatWest Trophy: 2nd round.

1991 staff: J.R. Ailing, A.N. Aymes, R. Baskin, G.A. Connor, R.M.F. Cooper, P.J. Finn, D. Gwynne, K.D. Jones, J. Maru, T. McClelland, M.C.J. Nicholas (captain), R.J. Parks, K.J. Shyne, C.L. Smith, R.A. Smith, V.J. Terry, T.M. Trott, J.L. Turner, J. Udd, J.R. Wood. Newcomers: Aqib Javed, R.S. M. Morris, N.R. Taylor, M.J. Threlfield (Middlesex). Departures: L.A. Joseph (Lancashire), M.D. Marshall (West Indies commitments), R.J. Scott (Gloucestershire).

IF THEY could not win the title last year, it is illogical they should improve on third place now. Marshall will be absent, though, surprisingly,

rethink. No county suffered more from the pedantic pitch regulations, for all life was sucked out of the Derby strip and when it crumbled through being dry and grassless, they were fined 25 points, which cost them four places. The guidelines are less rigid now and, in Malcolm and Mortensen, Kim Barnett still has a potent new-ball attack. Barnett, into his fifth year as captain, also has his usual array of back-up seam bowling and, in Ian Folley, from Lancashire, a left-arm spin bowler of proven ability but diminished confidence. Mohammed Asharuddin is a shared overseas signing, both a crowd-pleaser. With Barnett and John Morris, he will ensure Derbyshire are attractive viewing.

GLAMORGAN

1990: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 8th (W5 L5 D11). Refuge Assurance League: 15th (W7 L5 N/R2). Benson and Hedges Cup: Quarter-final. NatWest Trophy: Quarter-final.

1991 staff: S.R. Barwick, S. Banton, A. Butler (captain), M.J. Cann, P. Coffey, R.D. S. C. C. Davies, S.J. Dennis, J. Derrick, M. Frost, D.L. Hamp, G.C. Holmes, S.P. James, M.P. Maynard, C.P. Metson, H. Morris, R. Roberts, R.J. Sherrin, J. Smith, S.L. Watkin. Newcomers: J. Bishop, D.J. Foster, S. Kinon, A.D. Shaw, J.R. Williams. Departures: H. Anthony, N.G. Cowley (retired), R. Pook, I.V.A. Richards (West Indies commitments), K. Somai.

ALAN Butler's quiet excellence as captain and opening batsman last season was a huge factor in Glamorgan achieving their best championship position for 20 years.

Although there will be no Viv Richards this time, the renaissance can continue. Ravi Shastri, Richards's one-year deputy, is a considerable all-rounder whose spin wisdom may also help the progress of Robert Croft, the promising off-break bowler. Butcher, the durable Hugh Morris and the fluent Matthew Maynard must all repeat last year's form to compensate for Richards's absence, and another who will be missed is Nigel Cowley — forced into retirement by a groin injury. It is the seam bowling, or the shortage of it, which prohibits any realistic thoughts of honours. Steve Watkin is talented but has to bowl too much and too often in a conspicuously raw attack. A spearhead is lacking and they need to uncover one.

HAMPSHIRE

1990: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 3rd (W6 L4 D10). Refuge Assurance League: 5th (W9 L5 N/R2). Benson and Hedges Cup: Failed to qualify for quarter-finals. NatWest Trophy: Semi-final.

1991 staff: J.R. Ailing, A.N. Aymes, R. Baskin, G.A. Connor, R.M.F. Cooper, P.J. Finn, D. Gwynne, K.D. Jones, J. Maru, T. McClelland, M.C.J. Nicholas (captain), R.J. Parks, K.J. Shyne, C.L. Smith, R.A. Smith, V.J. Terry, T.M. Trott, J.L. Turner, J. Udd, J.R. Wood. Newcomers: Aqib Javed, R.S. M. Morris, N.R. Taylor, M.J. Threlfield (Middlesex). Departures: L.A. Joseph (Lancashire), M.D. Marshall (West Indies commitments), R.J. Scott (Gloucestershire).

IF THEY could not win the title last year, it is illogical they should improve on third place now. Marshall will be absent, though, surprisingly,

he is due back next year. Robin Smith will miss the first six weeks after surgery and much of the rest through England commitments, and most strikingly, the bowling is evidently not good enough. This, however, is stated with qualified knowledge of the Hampshire Aquil Javed and if he should prove the match of his Pakistani contemporary, Waqar Younis, all things are possible. He was recommended, like Waqar, by Lawrence Khan and is said to bring the ball equally late, though not as fast. He will be an interesting addition to a multi-national attack. Good news for Hampshire is that both Jon Ailing and Kevin James are fully fit, both are genuine all-rounders. There are two young spin bowlers in Shaun Udal and Ian Turner.

LANCASHIRE

1990: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 6th (W6 L3 D13). Refuge Assurance League: 2nd (W11 L3 N/R2). Benson and Hedges Cup: Winners. NatWest Trophy: winners.

1991 staff: Waseem Akram, P.J.W. Allott, M. Atherton, I.D. Austin, J.P. Crawley, P.A.J. Fitt, J.D. Fretton, N.H. Fairbrother, J.D. Hughes, G. Fowler, W.K. Hagg, D. J. Hogg, G. Lloyd, P.J. Martin, G.D. Mendis, T.M. O'Neil, N.J. Speck, J. Starnworth, S.P. Titchard, M. Watkins, G. Yates. Newcomers: M. Sharpe. Departures: S. Bramhall, M. Crawley (Nottinghamshire), I. Falley (Derbyshire), B.P. Patterson (West Indies commitments), S.N.V. Waterton.

IF PETER Pan, alias David Hughes, really does carry out what he intended to do five years ago and retire at the end of this season, how fitting it

would be if he could first lead Lancashire to the championship, which they have not won outright for 57 years. For this to happen, Hughes must hope for a much-improved contribution from Waseem Akram — rightly acclaimed for his spectacular limited-over efforts but conventionally overlooked for scoring only 117 runs and taking 15 wickets in the championship. Lancashire are serious about winning the premier event, Waseem has to do more. No such reservations about the batting, which is as good as any in the country. Atherton will continue to do No. 3. Watkinson could profitably develop his off spin and it is barely conceivable Lancashire will not win something. . . but will it be the big one?

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

1990: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 13th (W4 L8 D10). Refuge Assurance League: 4th (W10 L5 N/R1). Benson and Hedges Cup: Final. NatWest Trophy: 2nd round.

1991 staff: J.A. Afford, R.D. Birch, B. Broad, K.E. Cooper, K.P. Evans, M. Field-Buss, B.N. Fenn, E.E. Hemmings, P. Johnson, D.J. R. Kettlewell, G.W. Miller, C. Pugh, P.R. Pollard, D.W. Randall, R. Robinson (captain), K. Saxby, M. Saxby, C. Scott, R.D. Stephenson. Newcomers: S. Brown, M. Crawley (Lancashire), R. Bates (Lancashire), W. Deas, D. Laiting.

KEN Taylor, a gentle and unobtrusive administrator, very much of the old school, stands aside as team manager this year to make way for one of his former players, John Birch. However, if this is a move with the future in

mind, there is still a suspicion of decline in the air at Trent Bridge, with most of the senior players past their best. Seven of the first team are over 30 and there are signs that the batting and bowling may be close to retirement. This would be all very well if there was a queue of youngsters scrambling to replace them, but this is not the case. They do have Andy Pickford, fully mature at 27 and fresh from an impressive tour of Sri Lanka with England A, and it is a pity that for him and his left-arm spin did not make the anticipated progress last year. Cooper and Stephenson remain an incisive new-ball pair, if both stay fit. Mark Crawley is a good signing for Lancashire.

WARWICKSHIRE

1990: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 5th (W7 L7 D5). Refuge Assurance League: 14th (W6 L10 N/R1). Benson and Hedges Cup: Failed to qualify for quarter-finals. NatWest Trophy: 2nd round.

1991 staff: J.E. Bergin, P.A. Booth, D. Brown, D. Din, A.A. Donald, S.J. Green, P.L.C. Holloway, T.A. Lloyd (captain), A.J. Miles, T.A. Murtton, D. O'Ster, T. Penney, A.R.K. Pearson, K. Pugh, T. Redcliffe, D.A. Reeve, G.C. Smith, C.J. Smith, N.M.K. Smith, P. Smith, G. Stear, R.G. Twiss, G. Welch. Newcomers: M. Burns, W. Khan, B. Usher, Waseem Khan. Departures: T. Moody (Worcestershire), A. J. Kalliaharran (retired), G.W. Humphreys (retired).

AN AGREEABLE fifth season, culminating in fifth place, illogically preceded a thoroughly disagreeable winter. After the departures of the chairman, Bob Evans, and

the coach, Bob Cottam, peace has been restored. Mike Smith and Dennis Amis make up an impressive letterhead as chairmen of the committees and Woolmer, Cottam's replacement, has a job which does not include any interference with the captain's running of the side. Andy Lloyd should have a freer hand, which hopefully will help his batting out of a slump. He maintains, with justice, that Donald, Small, Muntton and Benjamin give him a pace attack as good as any. Spin bowling is thin, however, and the batting, with Moody, Kalliaharran and House going, will lean more on Dominic Oller and Jason Ratcliffe, both impressively tall Solihull boys. Reeve is a very capable No. 6.

WHERE THE TEAMS FINISHED IN 1990

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP	REFUGE ASSURANCE LEAGUE
Derbyshire (5) — 22 10 11 73 55 288	Derbyshire (5) — 16 12 3 1 50
Essex (2) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 287	Lancashire (1) — 18 11 3 2 46
Hampshire (7) — 22 10 11 73 55 286	Lancashire (2) — 16 10 3 2 45
Warwickshire (6) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 285	Nottinghamshire (4) — 16 10 3 2 44
Lancashire (4) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 284	Hampshire (8) — 16 10 3 2 43
Leeds (13) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 283	Yorkshire (11) — 16 10 3 2 42
Glamorgan (17) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 282	Gloucestershire (18) — 16 10 3 2 41
Surrey (18) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 281	Kent (12) — 16 10 3 2 40
Yorkshire (16) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 280	Nottinghamshire (5) — 16 10 3 2 39
Northants (9) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 279	Essex (3) — 16 10 3 2 38
Gloucestershire (10) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 278	Gloucestershire (14) — 16 10 3 2 37
Nottinghamshire (11) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 277	Lancashire (3) — 16 10 3 2 36
Nottinghamshire (12) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 276	Warwickshire (17) — 16 10 3 2 35
Warwickshire (14) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 275	Lancashire (16) — 16 10 3 2 34
Warwickshire (15) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 274	Nottinghamshire (13) — 16 10 3 2 33
Warwickshire (16) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 273	Warwickshire (19) — 16 10 3 2 32
Warwickshire (17) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 272	Warwickshire (20) — 16 10 3 2 31
Warwickshire (18) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 271	Warwickshire (21) — 16 10 3 2 30
Warwickshire (19) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 270	Warwickshire (22) — 16 10 3 2 29
Warwickshire (20) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 269	Warwickshire (23) — 16 10 3 2 28
Warwickshire (21) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 268	Warwickshire (24) — 16 10 3 2 27
Warwickshire (22) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 267	Warwickshire (25) — 16 10 3 2 26
Warwickshire (23) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 266	Warwickshire (26) — 16 10 3 2 25
Warwickshire (24) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 265	Warwickshire (27) — 16 10 3 2 24
Warwickshire (25) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 264	Warwickshire (28) — 16 10 3 2 23
Warwickshire (26) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 263	Warwickshire (29) — 16 10 3 2 22
Warwickshire (27) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 262	Warwickshire (30) — 16 10 3 2 21
Warwickshire (28) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 261	Warwickshire (31) — 16 10 3 2 20
Warwickshire (29) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 260	Warwickshire (32) — 16 10 3 2 19
Warwickshire (30) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 259	Warwickshire (33) — 16 10 3 2 18
Warwickshire (31) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 258	Warwickshire (34) — 16 10 3 2 17
Warwickshire (32) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 257	Warwickshire (35) — 16 10 3 2 16
Warwickshire (33) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 256	Warwickshire (36) — 16 10 3 2 15
Warwickshire (34) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 255	Warwickshire (37) — 16 10 3 2 14
Warwickshire (35) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 254	Warwickshire (38) — 16 10 3 2 13
Warwickshire (36) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 253	Warwickshire (39) — 16 10 3 2 12
Warwickshire (37) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 252	Warwickshire (40) — 16 10 3 2 11
Warwickshire (38) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 251	Warwickshire (41) — 16 10 3 2 10
Warwickshire (39) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 250	Warwickshire (42) — 16 10 3 2 9
Warwickshire (40) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 249	Warwickshire (43) — 16 10 3 2 8
Warwickshire (41) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 248	Warwickshire (44) — 16 10 3 2 7
Warwickshire (42) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 247	Warwickshire (45) — 16 10 3 2 6
Warwickshire (43) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 246	Warwickshire (46) — 16 10 3 2 5
Warwickshire (44) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 245	Warwickshire (47) — 16 10 3 2 4
Warwickshire (45) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 244	Warwickshire (48) — 16 10 3 2 3
Warwickshire (46) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 243	Warwickshire (49) — 16 10 3 2 2
Warwickshire (47) — 22 8 8 2 12 73 55 242	Warwickshire (50) — 16 10 3 2 1

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP	REFUGE ASSURANCE LEAGUE
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● SPORT 31-36

THE TIMES

BUSINESS

Business Editor
John Bell

SATURDAY APRIL 20 1991

MONEY

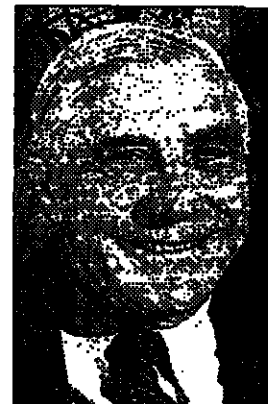
Building societies cut rates

A NUMBER of lenders, led by the Halifax Building Society, this week cut their standard mortgage rates after the recent falls in bank base rates.

For some borrowers who took out fixed-rate mortgages in the past two years it could mean they are paying more for their loans than if they had chosen a variable rate.

But a Weekend Money investigation shows someone taking out a loan of £60,000 on a fixed rate of 9.9 per cent in 1987 could have paid £7,000 less over four years than someone taking out a traditional home loan with the same bank. Page 27

Vital chemistry



Sir Paul Girolami, chairman of Glaxo, the pharmaceutical company, does not take the group's best-selling anti-ulcer drug, despite a tendency to worry over corporate problems. He talks to Matthew Bond. Page 23

Lacking proof

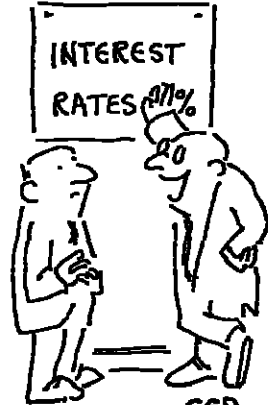
Home owners chasing up firms that have carried out poor damp-proofing or other remedial work find that guarantees are useless if the company has gone out of business. An insurance scheme is available that guarantees the guarantee. Page 28

Wrong rights

Rights issues look like giveaways to shareholders when offering a discount to the market price of the existing shares, but the gain can easily be wiped out. Page 28

Double trouble

Confusion at the social security department led to two people with similar names being issued with the same National Insurance number. One found himself pursued by private detectives trying to chase up a bank loan. Page 29



Your letters

Investors need to keep an eye on their building society current accounts to check they are receiving all the interest due to them, cautions one reader, who found he was being given 50 per cent less interest than he ought. Page 30

P&O package

P&O, the shipping, construction and property conglomerate, has entered into a sale and leaseback package on 34 of its 87 ships to refinance £400 million of its £1.3 billion debt. Page 22

Sugar offer

A final offer by Tate & Lyle for Bundaberg Sugar, Australia's second largest sugar producer, is likely to be resisted after the British group raised its bid from Aus\$290 million (£100 million) to Aus\$330 million. Page 23

Lenders must fulfil 'moral obligation to debtors'



Sir George: charity chief

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE FORMER deputy governor of the Bank of England has told banks they have a social and moral obligation to help the estimated 1 million people in Britain who have serious debt problems.

Sir George Blunden is writing to all Britain's lenders to ask them to donate £3 million a year to the Money Advice Trust, a new charity, of which he is chairman. The trust plans to fund financial advice centres and telephone helplines.

Sir George said: "One million people would not have financial difficulties without mistakes being made by the lenders. The pressure on people to borrow has made them overborrow."

These lenders have a moral obligation to repair that damage. They know in their heart of hearts that they have made mistakes. It is in their interest to give so they can have fewer bad debts."

Sir George is approaching between one and two thousand lenders, including British Telecom, British Gas, the electricity distributors, banks, building societies and consumer credit companies. He is asking them all to give £10 to the trust for every £1 million they lend each year.

The Money Advice Trust was established last year, after the publication of the Ezra Report in 1989. This called for improved financial advice funded by the private sector.

At present, financial companies give only £800,000 to money advice groups, a tenth of the amount needed. Sir George hopes to increase that contribution to 30 per cent.

By contrast, 80 per cent of the budget is financed by local government, mainly through Citizens Advice Bureaux. The number of people using CABs for financial advice is rising sharply, owing to the recession and growing unemployment.

Money Advice will not run any services itself, but pass on the funds to money centres. A business plan has been drawn up, which calls for an increase in training facilities for money advisers through regional Money Advice Service Units (MASUs).

Some of the existing units are already under threat of closure because of lack of funds. Sir George hopes to protect these and to set up others across the country.

Money Advice also hopes to fund a financial telephone helpline in Birmingham. Sir George hopes this will be the first of a series throughout Britain.

Sir George has sent his first batch of letters to the banks and is awaiting replies. The trust has already scored several successes in its fund-raising. National Westminster Bank has provided £250,000 a year over three years to improve training facilities, while Citibank has given £100,000 to the Greater London MASU. The Finance Houses Association and British Gas have also provided funds.

Money Advice officials are concerned that not all financial groups will be as generous. Many building societies are thought to be unwilling to give money as they prefer to provide financial advice themselves.

Sir George argues that the banks and societies' customers need independent advice.

Money Advice's research shows that people in financial difficulties owe money to, on average, four different companies.

who had Air Europe airline tickets will have to join the queue of unsecured creditors, unless a buyer is found soon.

A separate meeting will be held for Air Europe's creditors in the next six weeks but that company's loss will depend on whether Air Europe's 12 aircraft can be re-leased.

Mr Hayward said any payments to unsecured creditors would be made when ILG Travel was put into liquidation. The process could take "years". So far, the administration has cost about £200,000.

Administrators were appointed to ILG after the Citibank syndicate called-in receivers to two leasing subsidiaries. Lloyds, the company's main bank, had been prepared to invest another £25 million but only if the company could find a similar amount.

ILG's collapse occurred despite a £40 million cash injection from Werner Rey, the Swiss financier who took a 49 per cent stake in the group.

Mr Ratford said more creditors could emerge from the group's 3,520 staff who have been made redundant. Two hundred and fifty staff were kept on to help with the administration.

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Liabilities total £400m

ILG creditors may get just 2p in pound

By ANGELA MACKAY

UNSECURED creditors of ILG Travel, the main subsidiary of Harry Goodman's collapsed International Leisure Group, were told by the company's administrators yesterday that they are unlikely to receive more than 2p in the pound.

ILG Travel's total liabilities are about £400 million while its assets are thought to be worth little more than £10 million. So far, KPMG Peat Marwick, the administrators, which was appointed last month, have realised about £4 million from the disposal of Drive Europe, Club 18-30, the brand name, and Quest Leisure Group, the school tour group. Intasun, the brand name, is still for sale.

Talks on the sale of Air Europe, ILG's other main subsidiary, are continuing with "two or three" parties. Part of ILG Travel's £400 million of liabilities relate to the 14-strong syndicate, led by Citibank, which leased aircraft to Air Europe.

The syndicate is the biggest creditor, with about £200 million owed, and Lloyds Bank, the second biggest, has more than £100 million

outstanding. According to KPMG Peat Marwick's calculations, Lloyds is unlikely to receive more than £2 million.

More than 120 creditors met Tim Hayward and Bill Ratford, the administrators, yesterday. Mr Ratford said: "They were not surprised by what we told them."

ILG Travel, which was Britain's second biggest tour operator, could have up to 50,000 creditors, the bulk of which stem from customer complaints on package holidays. Mr Hayward said this figure was "quite normal".

The main assets of the company are the debtors, primarily travel agents owing pipeline money - the funds paid as deposit for holidays or cash already received for holidays. Other assets include brand names, accommodation prepayments and interest in ground handling businesses.

Mr Hayward said: "There are many thousands [of creditors] in the UK and Europe, ranging from banks owed millions of pounds to hoteliers and campsite owners to previous holiday makers."

Those who had booked holidays with the company before it collapsed were protected by the Tour Operators' Study Group bond. Those

who had Air Europe airline tickets will have to join the queue of unsecured creditors, unless a buyer is found soon.

A separate meeting will be held for Air Europe's creditors in the next six weeks but that company's loss will depend on whether Air Europe's 12 aircraft can be re-leased.

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Clearing up in eastern Europe

STEPHEN MARKESON



Table talk: Jacques Attali, head of the Eurobank, presides at the first meeting

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, launched in London this week, is considering a number of options aimed at countering the collapse in eastern European trade that occurred after the switch to hard-currency transactions at the beginning of this year.

One of the proposals is that the European Bank itself might take on the role of a clearing house, through which payments are handled. This would effectively mean that the payment for a Hungarian lawnmower exported to Czechoslovakia would be handled in London.

The system would be constrained to the operational aspects, and would not involve trade subsidies or balance of payments finance.

The idea of a clearing mechanism was floated first by Mihaly Kupa, the Hungarian finance minister, during the bank's inauguration ceremonies last week. The matter is being treated with a sense of urgency, because of the economic consequences of the downturn in trade. The precise role of the European Bank has yet to be worked out, but it is believed a decision is likely soon.

While most would agree that a clearing system is necessary, some would only want to see it set up as temporary option, because "there is ultimately no point to supporting trade which is worth nothing," according to one of the bank's directors.

Another more wide-ranging proposal, to set up an East European customs union, is likely to prove more controversial among the European Bank's 41 shareholders, which include America, with 10 per cent. The shareholders also include Switzerland, whose share is 2.28 per cent.

Hammerson hit by strong pound

By MATTHEW BOND

HAMMERSON, Britain's third biggest property company, reported a 22 per cent fall in net asset value per share from 1,068p to 832p in the year to end-December. But according to John Parry, managing director, about 91p of this was caused by the pound strengthening during the year.

Pre-tax profits fell from £75.3 million to £70.7 million. Worldwide, the value of Hammerson's £2.1 billion property portfolio fell by about 11 per cent. Sydney Mason, chairman, said 1990 and "potentially 1991" were two of the most difficult years Hammerson had had to face.

The worst-performing sector in Britain was offices in the City of London, where values fell 22-23 per cent. In the West End, office values fell by 14 per cent. The British portfolio dropped an average 13 per

cent. Values overseas were also on the slide, down 11 per cent in Canada, 17 per cent in America and 5 per cent in Australia.

However, there was progress on the Continent: values in France rose by 15 per cent and in Germany by 3 per cent. The final dividend is 17p (16p), for a total 20.5p (19.5p).
Times, page 24

SHT chief resigns

Robin Garland, chief executive of Scottish Heritable Trust, the building to carpets conglomerate, has resigned after pre-tax losses for the year to December of £15.9 million (£10.1 million profit). There is no final dividend, after a 1.5p interim. Last year the group paid a total of 7p.
Times, page 24

City astonished at lending slowdown

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

LENDING by banks and building societies slumped last month, despite the interest rate cuts since Christmas. City economists were astonished yesterday when the Bank of England announced that lending rose by only £700 million last month, against February's £5.9 billion.

Most analysts had expected a figure of £4 billion-£5 billion, while some predicted even more, arguing that falling interest rates might soon threaten the economy with a renewed credit boom.

The M0 measure of money supply, which showed that notes and coins in circulation, rose by 2.7 per cent last month against a year earlier, also gave no signs of more demand in the economy.

The Bank's figures were dismissed by some economists as an aberration, but others said

they pointed to continuing weakness in consumer spending and investment.

Sterling weakened in response to the weak lending figures and another day of hectic speculation against the mark, which fell sharply against the dollar. In London, it ended at DM1.735, almost five pence up on Thursday's close.

Dealers continued to dump marks in favour of the dollar after the failure of the Bundesbank to raise German rates on Thursday. Indications from Washington that the Federal Reserve was unlikely to cut American rates in the near future also contributed to the dollar's strength. Sterling closed down 4.8 cents at \$1.7250, and almost unchanged against the mark at DM2.9875. By contrast, the yen weakened only slightly.

CBI fears £50bn equal pensions bill

By COLIN NARBROUGH

SEXUAL equality is an admirable principle, but the Confederation of British Industry believes it could leave companies with a £50 billion bill and drive household names in the smokestack industries to the wall.

The CBI will on Monday try to persuade the European Commission not to worsen confusion over a European court ruling last year on equal pensionable ages for men and women. Its main concern is the ruling being made retrospective.

A delegation led by Robbie Gilbert, deputy director of employment affairs at the CBI, will underline the potential £30 billion to £50 billion cost that full retrospective of the pensions ruling could cost British companies.

The CBI says most of the burden of the judgment would fall on Britain, but the delegation will stress to the Brussels officials that many EC members would also have serious problems. The Euro-

pean Court ruled last May that men and women would have to be treated equally over company pensions, in keeping with the equality articles of the Treaty of Rome. The confusion has arisen over whether the court ruling means companies would have to pay all former employees on an equal basis.

The National Association of Pension Funds conference in Torquay, Devon, heard yesterday that Mr Gilbert is likely to identify companies or sectors in Britain as most vulnerable to the ruling. These are mainly old smokestack industries in which the workforce has been radically cut recently, leaving company pension schemes with a disproportionately large number of claimants.

Many potential victims, such as British Steel, British Telecom and the power industry, have been sold off to the public in the government's round of privatisations in recent years. The commission is drawing up a "communication" to clarify its stance on its

equal pensions ruling. The CBI is concerned that Brussels should not introduce further complications. The delegation will urge commissioners not to make any hasty decisions or pronouncements over the judgment.

Sir Michael Partridge, permanent secretary at the social security department, told the conference the government was grateful for the NAPF initiative, but underlined the complexity of the issues involved. He said pension policies were inextricably linked with politics, owing to their huge impact on the budget and the economy.

Changing the pensionable age to comply with the European Court would require a "huge job of education and diplomacy" by both government and the pensions industry, he said. "The government is not ready yet, as the implications of the Barber (European) case go very wide," Sir Michael said. He said a fresh test case of the retrospective issue would have to be heard first.

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The angst that moulds Glaxo's winning formula

Only some sort of minor miracle can have prevented Sir Paul Girolami from becoming one of his company's biggest customers. For the chairman of the company that makes the world's best selling anti-ulcer drug is a formidable worrier. Everybody says so.

Sir Paul, for one, readily admits to a tendency to dwell on the complex problems thrown up by running Glaxo, Britain's biggest pharmaceutical company.

"I think I am a worrier, a brooder. I get melancholy bouts. But I have to go in a corner and worry about a problem myself. Talking about it doesn't actually help me to resolve it."

His colleagues also point to a tendency for introspection. Sir Ronald Arculus, a former British ambassador to Rome and non-executive director of Glaxo for the past eight years, says: "He's an extremely persistent man. He goes worrying away at the difficult problems."

Nor has this gone unnoticed by his rivals. Sir Alistair Frame, chairman of Wellcome, is well placed to comment, having served on the Glaxo board for six years before changing corporate horses. "He does worry about things, but he bottles it up quite well."

Combined with Sir Paul's renowned dedication to work, his worrying sounds like a classic recipe for the most vicious of ulcers and a lifelong prescription for Zantac, the Glaxo wonder drug that cures more ulcers worldwide than its recipients have missed hot dinners.

Not so, says Sir Paul, a distinctly healthy looking 65, whose current contract threatens to keep him in harness until he is 70.

"I've never taken Zantac. I don't like taking medicines. I only take them if I have to."

Lady Christabel Girolami, his wife of almost 39 years, may hold the answer to why her husband thrives on a lifestyle that would cause lesser men to buckle.

"He does worry and wrestle with a problem, but once he has decided what the solution is - wow! Then he becomes an action man."

The "wow!" factor is something followers of Glaxo have become familiar with, particularly in the 11 years of Sir Paul's tenure of the group's top two jobs.

In 1980, when he first became chief executive, the company had sales of £618 million and profits of £66 million. Ten years later, with Sir Paul in his fourth year as executive chairman, the fruits of his corporate angst had seen sales reach £2.8 billion and annual profits top £1 billion for the second year running.

That "wow!" feeling is also something that Glaxo



Sir Paul Girolami

The chairman of Britain's largest pharmaceutical company is an enthusiastic strategic thinker

shareholders recognise. Since 1980, Glaxo's shares - one of the stock market's most volatile - have risen in value by more than 2,500 per cent, making a lot of people extremely rich. It has also made Sir Paul wealthy. Last year his salary as chairman was £684,000.

"I won't let it change my lifestyle," is a phrase much used by winners of the football pools. But for Sir Paul, whose annual salary is roughly equivalent to a once-in-a-lifetime pools win, there is more than a ring of truth about it. Apart from being happily married to the same woman for 39 years, he has lived in the same house in southwest London for 30 years.

Sir Paul says this is typical of the way he lives. "I'm probably rather conservative. I haven't moved around a great deal. I have only had two jobs in my entire life. If I find myself at home anywhere, I stick there. If I had a good hotel, I don't think about trying others."

But as well as applying this

philosophy to what he likes describing as "banal" things, such as hotels, it also clearly applies to the most important aspect of his life - his work. It is to work that he single-mindedly dedicates himself. And for the past 25 years that work has been Glaxo.

A colleague recalls Sir Paul once telling him that he "had to think Glaxo 16 hours a day, six days a week". Talking to him, you rapidly gain the impression that these were not average, but minimum, requirements. Not that he is without humour. Although friends and colleagues describe him as shy, when he does drop himself away from his desk he is a fluent and amusing raconteur.

He remembers the original hostility he encountered when he joined Glaxo in 1966 as financial controller reporting direct to Sir Alan Wilson, the chairman. One of his first jobs was to assist in the reorganisation of Glaxo's numerous

independent trading companies under a central company and to transfer management power from Glaxo Laboratories to a new holding company, Glaxo Group.

Inevitably, there was resentment. "First of all, I was the finance man, which was bad enough. Secondly, because it's an in-bred industry and Glaxo was a very in-bred company, I was a stranger." But this air of suspicion did not last long, he says, smiling. "No, only about 15 to 16 years."

His dedication to work seems to make it difficult for him to talk about his early life. He says other people would not find it interesting. One suspects, though, that he regards recounting the events of the past as something of a waste of time. Wasted time is his greatest hate, says his wife.

He was born in a small village to the north of Venice. "Nothing so glamorous as Venice." His father was a mosaicist whose family appears to have met with some success during the era of the

belle époque when such things were fashionable. The family moved to London when Girolami was two years old. Mosaic, it appears, went in and out of fashion. "We had a St Francis in the bathroom, which always upset my mother. We couldn't sell the thing, so we put it up in the bathroom. But she didn't like to be overseen in the bathroom by a St Francis."

Sir Paul shares the current vogue for glossing over his school years. Suffice to say, they were disrupted by the war. But in 1947 he arrived at the London School of Economics. In the immediate post-war years, the LSE appears to have been a long way from the hotbed of student radicalism it was to become. It was ideally suited to the serious and ambitious Girolami, although to this day he retains a healthy scepticism of the practical application of much economic theory.

"It was a very serious, no-

nonsense place. I enjoyed it. There was a great deal of faith in what economics could do for the world. A little misplaced, I think."

He then launches into the sort of logical argument that he clearly relishes.

"I think you have to look at a problem without having at the top of your mind the tools which economics give you, because if you look at the problem with those tools in your mind, you may actually misdiagnose it in a fashion that makes it applicable to those tools. Then you find you apply it to the problem and it doesn't work."

From the LSE, he trained as a chartered accountant, qualifying with honours in 1953. A year later he joined Cooper Brothers, where he stayed for the next 11 years, first as an accountant and then a pioneer in the then fledgling field of management consultancy.

Despite having won a reputation as something of a high flyer, Sir Paul found the challenges of consultancy were not enough. "I wanted to take responsibility for things. When you're an accountant you tell other people what to do. I felt a little bit frustrated." He is quick to point out that of the three jobs he was offered, Glaxo's was the worst paid. "The most important thing was the people I bumped up against. That's what really turned me in favour of Glaxo."

Monica Hayes, his secretary at Glaxo for more than 20 years, confirms that he retains an accountant's eye for detail.

"He has a very precise mind and likes things presented in a precise way. He hates anything that is sloppy."

Sir Paul admits to being an enthusiastic strategic thinker and planner and clearly dislikes being proved wrong, even if it is for the best of reasons. His voice seems to contain a genuine note of regret when he confesses that the private two-year projection he prepared for Glaxo on becoming chief executive in 1980 was inaccurate because it underestimated the extraordinary success of Zantac. Last year, Zantac sales hit £1.4 billion, half the company's total turnover.

Zantac's success has been the making of Glaxo and Sir Paul. It was no accident, he says, but the result of a long-planned combination of having the right product and the right markets in which to sell.

His marketing skills are what his rivals openly envy. But opening these overseas markets was not always easy. He recalls a time, soon after he joined the board, when he was put in charge of supervising a French acquisition.

A senior company executive took him on one side and said: "Beware those foreigners." Sir Paul smiles at the thought of a man called Girolami being advised not to buy a company in Britain's nearest neighbour.

Sir Paul remains an enthusiastic internationalist. Sir Ronald Arculus says: "He knows his parish and that parish is the world." Others agree, saying that as a result Glaxo is not a British company, but an international company that just happens to be based in Britain.

Glaxo's board bears this out. The company now has an American chief executive, Dr Ernest Mario, four other American directors, one from Austria and another from Japan. Emphasising the importance Sir Paul puts on international relations, it also

includes three professional diplomats, the most recent of which is Sir Geoffrey Howe, the former foreign secretary. A fourth diplomat, one suspects, occupies the Glaxo chair. By the end of the Seventies, a firm foundation had been laid in the European markets. The company then turned to North America and Japan in what Sir Paul describes as "a very serious way."

Zantac's success was based on Sir Paul's belief that his product's marginal but significant superiority to Tagamet, the established treatment, could be used to justify a premium price. He likens the difference between the two as the difference between a first class degree and a congratulatory first.

"It was clear from everyone I spoke to that Zantac was superior; not much superior, but superior. Not only in efficacy, which you could argue about, but in its safety profile it was undoubtedly better. We were in a reasonable position to sell the product worldwide. And if we did our job right, it had to be a big product."

Sir Paul did, his colleagues did and Zantac was. Eleven years on, Zantac is still selling strongly. But the search for successors goes on, hence the £1 billion research and development programme that Glaxo has embarked on and with which Sir Paul is always closely linked.

"He recognises that the engine house of the company is research and development," says Dr Richard Sykes, the main board director responsible for R&D. "He knows that you cannot have a marketplace without a product."

But the fruits of whatever that research programme produces



Vintage of 1952: Sir Paul and Lady Girolami, still happy after almost 39 years of marriage

duces (an anti-nausea drug for chemotherapy patients has already been developed, while an anti-migraine drug is moving slowly towards the end of the lengthy approval process) will belong to the next generation in which Dr Mario, Glaxo's current chief executive, is likely to play a pre-eminent role.

The circumstances surrounding Dr Mario's appointment was one of the most controversial chapters in Sir Paul's stewardship of Glaxo. Quite unexpectedly, Dr Mario was appointed to a position occupied by Bernard Taylor, a loyal Glaxo manager with 26 years service under his belt.

Sir Paul is reluctant to talk about what were clearly difficult decisions. "I find that impersonal problems, in which a business abounds, even some very intractable ones, are fun. Personal ones are more difficult and worrying."

"He [Dr Mario] was a very good, competent man. For all sorts of reasons, he wasn't the

right man at that position at that time." He pauses before adding: "With this chairman, maybe," an indication that while the group had got its chemistry right in the laboratory, it might have been less successful in the boardroom.

This time, Sir Paul clearly believes he has the succession right, with a transfer of power happening possibly rather sooner than Sir Paul's five-year contract would suggest.

"Dr Mario covers everything. It's a one-to-one relationship. This relationship will, for two or three years, be a means of establishing his control, his power and authority as the top executive."

Sir Paul rejects suggestions that episodes such as the appointment of Dr Mario indicate a ruthless streak. "I'm not conscious of being ruthless. You have to be decisive, because one way or another you have to decide. The worst tragedy of all is indecision."

In private life, Sir Paul says he is a man of old-fashioned values. His two sons, Paul and Christopher, went to Cambridge and are now a barrister

and chartered accountant respectively. But a profession was no place for his daughter, Clare, he says with a smile, knowing that he is on dangerous ground. After graduating from Bristol her father advised her to go into "art or something".

"Don't go into a profession which, whether it's law or accounting, hardens a woman's heart. A woman has to have a soft heart."

Perhaps not surprisingly, Sir Paul lost this battle and his daughter qualified as a chartered accountant.

His wife is relaxed about his similarly old-fashioned views on marriage. Nor does she begrudge the time Sir Paul has dedicated to Glaxo over the years.

"We're real 1952 vintage," she says, laughing. "When we married I did not expect anything other than that he would work hard in a serious way. The fact that he proved very efficient and capable at the job was something of a bonus."

Quite some vintage, and quite some bonus.

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Bundaberg resists increased bid from Tate & Lyle

By OUR CITY STAFF

TATE & Lyle has raised its bid for Bundaberg Sugar, the Queensland sugar and rum producer, from Aus\$290 million (£100 million) to Aus\$330 million, and declared the offer final.

Under the new terms, Tate is offering \$4.10 cash for each Bundaberg share, against the previous \$3.70. The offer is conditional on approval by Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board.

Early indications from Brisbane suggested Bundaberg, Australia's second largest sugar producer, would continue to resist the British takeover attempt.

A statement from the Bundaberg board said: "That an increase was announced even before the (previous) offer was despatched confirms the view of the Bundaberg board as to the inadequacy of the original offer. It does not cause any reason to depart from the advice given by the

board previously to stockholders to hold their Bundaberg stock."

Tate's original bid, launched on March 19, was rejected by Roy Deicke, the chairman of Bundaberg, as inadequate and opportunistic.

Neil Shaw, chairman and chief executive of Tate, said the new offer was attractive for three reasons: the high cash price of \$4.10, it represented a premium over the pre-bid weighted average price in 1991, and Bundaberg was dependent on volatile world sugar prices.

He said: "Bundaberg stockholders have a simple choice - they can take \$4.10 in cash or they can wait in the hope that sugar prices will rise enough to push Bundaberg's stock market price to \$4.10."

Tate would operate Bundaberg, which co-produces Bundaberg rum with Guinness, as an autonomous subsidiary.

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To get your information pack about financial advice that's independent, phone 081 280 3000 today, or complete and send the coupon below.



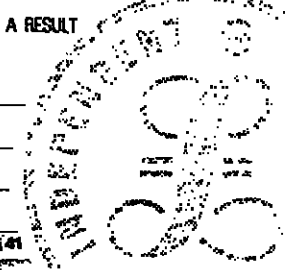
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TEMPUS

With the shadow of the Rodamco bid fast disappearing, Hammerson, where John Parry is managing director, is beginning to emerge in relatively good shape. Even after the fall



As a currency play, analysts are looking for a modest increase in NAV in 1991 to between 850p-875p. Time to take the shares off the sell list

Scottish Heritable

THE virtue of conglomeration, if such there be, is that

There is, of course, no final dividend, and it is no surprise either that Robin Garland, the SHT chief executive, has stepped down. The stars on the board, including Norman Ireland and Sir Ian MacGregor, ought to ensure the company's survival, but shareholders should not expect much more for some time.

STOCK MARKET

He forecast a setback in pre-tax profits this time around to £177 million, rising to £200 million next year and then dropping to £189 million in 1993.

2,520.1, while the FT index of 30 shares fell 16.3 at 1,980.1.

The better than expected money supply figures provided a much needed boost to government securities. Prices at the longer end clawed back

losses to close with gains of £½ before the sale of the £1.2 billion of tap stock.

Devenish held steady at 232p after rejecting the bid from Boddington, 1p lighter at

282p, and Sainsbury, 4p lower at 370p, to finance their expansion programmes have left the group vulnerable. Trading at Allied has been dull and the group's high gearing — about 76 per cent at the last account — will restrict its expansion programme. Asda shares stood at 120p on February 1. The market has risen 15 per cent since then. Argilly, the Safeway supermarkets chain,

sale and leaseback deal for part of its fleet.

Tate & Lyle fell 4p to 355p after announcing increased terms for Bundaberg, the Australian sugar producer.

The water package tumbled £100 to £3,010 and there were also falls for Anglian, 10p to 296p, Northumbrian, 14p to 3322p, North West, 9p to 296p, Severn Trent, 11p to 287p and Southern, 10p to 278p.

MICHAEL CLARK

New York

about eight to three. Thomas Walsh, head of the trading desk at Nikko Securities, said that profit-taking was to blame. He said: "The Dow has had a 135-point movement in six days." (Reuter)

[illegible]

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		MIDLAND RENT	
Aberdeen Trst	55	Proteus Ind (50p)	91
Alenta Resources	121	Serton Healthcare	17
Aberforth Smr (100p)	27	Smaller It	11
Alliance Res	43	Stend Platform (225p)	17
Graben Res (155p)	43	Trio Inv Ltd	161
CMW Group (30p)	53 + 3	Use Uniform	80
Castle Carm (50p)	23	Unichem (100p)	100
Orayton Bldg (50p)	102	Wig Top App	225
EFM Jaws Trst (50p)	46		
East German Inv	115	RIGHTS ISSUES	
Essex (100p)	116	De Morgan N/P	
Edgemoor	82	BS Group N/P	80

First Dealings April 8	Last Dealings April 13	Last Declaration July 11	For Settlement July 22
Call options were taken out on: 12/4/81 Belford Int, Budgens, Cannon Street Invest, Chloride, Granada, Hughes Food, Midlands Bank, Mosaic Int, Oliver Rea, Pittencrieff, Premier Cans Oil, Rainers Group, Rosehaugh, Satchell & Satchell, Standard & Chartered, WPP.			
Put: Dave Corp, FR Group. Put & Call: Satchell & Satchell.			

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

[illegible]

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

هكذا عن الأصل

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Name
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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Change Price

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares drift lower

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 15. Dealings end April 26. Contango day April 29. Settlement day May 7.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Change	Price	High	Low	Change	Price

BREWERIES

High	Low	Change	Price	High	Low	Change	Price

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Change	Price	High	Low	Change	Price

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High	Low	Change	Price	High	Low	Change	Price

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High	Low	Change	Price	High	Low	Change	Price

The image contains a dense grid of financial data, organized into columns. Each column represents a different company or fund, with rows listing various financial metrics such as shares, price, and volume. The data is presented in a tabular format, with some columns having headers that identify the entity being tracked. The overall layout is a comprehensive snapshot of market activity for a specific period.

[illegible]

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 92.2 (day's range 92.2-92.6).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Rate Rates for April 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1.7245-1.7245	1.7245-1.7235	0.51-0.50	2.32-2.32
Montreal	1.8001-0.7182	1.8001-1.9939	0.32-0.32	0.70-0.62
Amsterdam	3.9697-3.9734	3.9697-3.9734	17-17	25-25
Frankfurt	61.26-61.25	61.26-61.25	17-17	25-25
Geneva	11.4104-11.4082	11.4094-11.4074	15-15	58-45
Paris	1.1211-1.1230	1.1194-1.1210	2-15	15-15
Frankfurt	2.8502-2.8512	2.8511-2.8500	8-13	54-51
London	2.9738-3.0023	2.9738-2.9947	8-13	54-51
Stockholm	2.5810-1.5830	2.5810-2.5810	15-15	25-25
Oslo	220.91-221.27	220.91-221.27	15-15	15-15
Madrid	11.5745-11.5745	11.5745-11.5745	15-15	54-51
Paris	10.0510-10.1524	10.0510-10.1524	15-15	54-51
Stockholm	10.6729-10.7282	10.6729-10.7282	15-15	54-51
Tokyo	2.5810-2.5810	2.5810-2.5810	15-15	54-51
Verona	21.0073-21.0073	21.0073-21.0073	54-51	14-15
Zurich	2.5810-2.5810	2.5810-2.5810	15-15	54-51
Source: BofI			Premium - p; Discount - d	

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Rates 12	Finances Hex 13			
Discount Market Loans: Overnight High 11%	Low 11%	Week End: 11%		
Treasury Bills (Days): 2 month 11 1/2% 3 month 11 1/2% 6 month 11 1/2% 9 month 11 1/2%				

Prime Bank Bills (Days):	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	3 month	6 month	12 month
Time Bills (Days):	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	10 1/2-10 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2
Overnight open 11%, close 11%,	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2
Local Authority Depos:	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2
Sterling Cds:	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2
Dollar Cds:	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2
Building Society Cds:	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 month	3 month	6 month	Call
Dollar:	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2
Deutschmarks:	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2
Francs:	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2
Swiss Francs:	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2
Yen:	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Dollars: Open \$357.00-357.50	Closes \$359.00-359.50	High: \$357.20 (last)	Low: \$357.00 (last)
Gold: \$359.00-359.50	Kingsgold: \$359.00-359.50	\$357.20 (last)	\$357.00 (last)
Silver: \$35.00-35.50	\$35.00-35.50	\$35.00-35.50	\$35.00-35.50

OTHER STERLING RATES DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Argentina austral*	17033.9-17031.1	Ireland	1.5900-1.5915
Australia dollar	2.32-2.32	Italy	2.710-2.720
Bahrein dirhal	0.93-0.93	Malaysia	2.745-2.750
Brach cruzado	443.543-443.548	Australia	1.238-1.244
Cayman dollar	0.81-0.82	Canada	1.157-1.1592
Philippine peso	6.876-7.353	Sweden	0.1830-0.1840
French franc	6.55-6.55	Norway	0.8925-0.8935
Hong Kong dollar	13.222-13.222	Switzerland	0.700-0.700
India rupee	34.78-35.50	W Germany	1.238-1.270
Japanese yen	34.78-35.50	Netherlands	1.4820-1.4830
Malaysian ringgit	4.7670-4.7742	Denmark	0.8210-0.8230
Mexico peso	2.32-2.32	France	0.8210-0.8230
New Zealand dollar	2.32-2.32	West Germany	1.238-1.270
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.8-6.8	Italy	1.2745-1.2765
Singapore dollar	3.074-3.074	Bahrein (Com)	2.32-2.32
S.Africa rand	2.32-2.32	Belgium	1.2745-1

High	Low	Company	Est	Plan	Change	Per	Per
172	172						
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COMMODITIES																			
LONDON FOX				SUGAR (FOB)				LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICE-LONG - London 5.50pm)											
COFFEES				C OILS				Crude oil values last month more than one dollar, over the week, owing to supply glut.											
May	885-887	May	525-573	May	175.0-73.0														
Jul	885-887	Jul	525-594	May	175.0-73.0														
Sep	885-887	Sep	514-512	Aug	175.0-74.0														
Nov	885-887	Nov	525-573	Nov	175.0-74.0														
Dec	784-782	Dec	649-646	Dec	175.0-74.0														
Jan	775-772	Jan	650-657	Mar	175.0-74.0														
Feb	525-526	Feb	525-526	Mar	175.0-74.0														
				May	175.0-74.0														
				May	175.0-74.0														
CRUDE OILS (Refined FOB)																			
								Brent 1st day (medium)											
								19.30											
								Brent 1st day (light)											
								19.35											
								Brent 1st day (heavy)											
								19.35											
								W Texas Intermediate (May)											
								20.70											
								W Texas Intermediate (June)											
								20.70											
PRODUCTS (May-June 5/8T)																			
Spot & CR NW Europe (medium delivery)																			
Premium Gas. 15				Bkt 244 (-3)				Other: 247 (-3)											
Gasol. EEC				167 (+1)				168 (+1)											
Non EEC 1st Jun				158 (+1)				159 (+1)											
2nd Jun				178 (-1)				179 (-1)											
3rd Jun				178 (-1)				179 (-1)											
Naphtha				204 (-1)				207 (-1)											
ICE FUTURES																			
WHEAT																			

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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1991

27
Edited by Lindsay Cook

Tax exemption costs savers

Just as most of the major banks and building societies were congratulating themselves on the smooth transition from composite rate tax to basic rate tax, savers are beginning to discover that their accounts have been exempted from the new system.

The Inland Revenue regulations that allow non-taxpayers to register their savings accounts for payment of interest without deduction of tax also allow banks and societies to refuse this facility on any accounts closed to new customers before April 6.

However, nobody thought to tell the holders of the accounts. The first they heard of the exemption was when they arrived with completed R85 forms at their branches to apply for gross payment of tax and were refused.

There could be millions of account holders affected and this could explain why less than half the number of people qualifying for gross payment have registered. Those involved are faced

with the choice of changing to a new account or waiting until April 6 next year to claim back the tax from the Inland Revenue.

In most cases, changing to a new account will not be a problem. It may even provide a higher return. Inevitably, some savers will face the choice of paying a penalty to transfer their money or having their interest paid net of tax.

The leaflet sent by the Inland Revenue to all households in January neglected to tell investors that banks and building societies can exclude any closed account so long as they send a written notice to the tax office 30 days before the first interest payment.

The reason behind the exemption is that the savings institutions argued that it would be too expensive to include obsolete accounts in its computer

program for gross payment of interest.

Some have, however, managed to include all old accounts. Halifax Building Society and Abbey National customers can register the oldest of passbooks for gross payment.

At Nationwide Building Society, it is a different story. A reader who opened a Top Saver account for his grandson some years ago was refused because the account was "not on the computer". Yet only days earlier, the boy had deposited £20 in the account and the society's com-

puter had entered interest in his passbook.

Nobody suggested that he should transfer his money into a new account. As a result, the society has lost the accounts of both grandfather and grandson.

The Inland Revenue has spent millions of pounds on advertising to encourage people to register accounts for gross payment. Research carried out by the agency involved showed that many non-taxpayers were nervous of having anything to do with the Inland Revenue. Those who have overcome their ner-

vousness and filled in the form only to be rejected, may never claim back the overpaid tax.

Take stock

Stock Group investors learned this week that they may have to wait for two years to get the bulk of their money. On the same day, the Securities and Investments Board published proposals aimed at preventing a similar catastrophe.

The cash belonging to Stock Group investors is frozen in the British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank, which has, so far, failed to find a buyer. Both Stock Group and B&CMB were part of the British & Commonwealth Group, which crashed last June.

Many of the investors were unaware that proceeds from share sales were held in the bank

and are angry that the maximum compensation they have received to date is £15,000. Under the SIB proposals, clients of investment companies will be told if their money is likely to be held with a bank in the same group as the investment firm. The broker will still be free to use the bank.

Probably more useful will be the right to insist on a particular bank to hold cash between investments. As proposed, few investors may learn of the right. They will have to insist that their money is held in a specific bank, otherwise it will automatically be lodged with the bank chosen by the broker.

Many clients of Stock Group complain they did not choose the broker. They were sold by their previous brokers. They did not choose the bank and many were surprised to discover how much of their investment portfolios were in cash at the time of the B&C crash.

The proposed rules do not appear to prevent the same happening again.



COMMENT
LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

Timing is vital when opting for fixed loans

Fixed-rate mortgages have saved borrowers thousands of pounds when they have been taken out at the right time. Enquiries by Weekend Money shows that someone taking out a £60,000 loan in April 1987 on a fixed-rate mortgage could have paid £7,000 less over four years than someone taking out a traditional, variable home loan with the same bank.

Many borrowers, however, are choosing the wrong time to opt for fixed-rate mortgages and are needlessly losing out. Many took out such loans in the autumn of last year when interest rates were high. Their monthly payments are now higher than those on variable-rate loans and they could find it too expensive to change.

With borrowing becoming cheaper, fixed-rate mortgages could be bargains again. The best time to take out such loans is when interest rates are low and likely to fall further.

Someone taking out a fixed-rate loan of £60,000 with the TSB at 9.9 per cent in 1987 would have paid £20,790 in interest by now. Someone taking out a variable mortgage loan with the same bank at the same time would have paid £27,860 in interest. The calculations assume that the customer is a basic rate taxpayer with one tax relief entitlement.

The irony is that most borrowers shunned fixed-rate mortgages at the time. History could now repeat itself. Mortgage rates have fallen for the third time since October and a range of new fixed-rate mortgages are on offer. Most borrowers, however, are still choosing variable-rate loans. The cheapest of these, offered by the Abbey National, is 10.7 per cent for first-time buyers borrowing £100,000. The Nationwide offers a fixed-rate

Lindsay Cook reports on the savings possible on well chosen mortgages

loan of 10.95 per cent. Yet in the past four to five years, virtually everyone who has taken out a fixed-rate mortgage has paid less than variable-rate borrowers. A Barclays customer taking a fixed-rate mortgage of £60,000 in December of 1989 at 13.4 per cent has paid £10,552.50. This is £1,036.92 less than with a variable loan for the same amount from the same bank.

The modern version of fixed-rate mortgages was introduced in 1986 by Lloyds Bank. It offered loans at 9.9 per cent, fixed for three years. The bank guaranteed another fixed-rate offer at the end of the term. These have varied between 12.8 and 14 per cent.

In the spring of 1988, there were many other fixed-rate offers. Most followed that year's giveaway Budget when interest rates were falling fast. At Lloyds, 5,551 people borrowed an average of £42,000 at 10 per cent. On average, they have saved about £4,000 compared with variable-rate borrowers. They will continue to pay 10 per cent until the end of June. On a £60,000 loan they have paid £437.50 in interest every month. Variable-rate mortgage payments rose to £680 last spring. In July 1987, 2,600 more people took up fixed-rate loans at 10.9 per cent until September 1991.

The biggest lender, the Halifax Building Society, made its first fixed-rate offer in October

1988 at 11.5 per cent for two years. Its fifteenth, launched last month, is 11.85 per cent, fixed until July 1993. Its highest fixed rate was 13.85 per cent offered between August and October last year when the society's base rate was 15.4 per cent. The Halifax's variable rate overtook this at the beginning of the month when it was cut to 13.75 per cent and the differential widens next month when its standard variable rate is reduced to 12.95 per cent.

If interest rates do not change again after the May reduction, a fixed-rate mortgage for three years at 13.5 per cent, taken out in October 1989, would have paid £12,032.08 cheaper at the end of its term than a variable mortgage of £60,000.

Factors to be taken into account include the £100 arrangement fee and the restriction of the fixed rate to endowment, pension or personal equity plan mortgages.

Abbey National has had five issues starting a month before the Halifax with a fixed rate over two years of 11.3 per cent. It now offers 12.25 per cent and has lent more than £500 million at fixed rates.

In common with many lenders, the Abbey has stopped restricting the type of loan that can be taken with a guaranteed interest rate. The highest rate was 13.7 per cent offered last summer, running until December 1993. The takers for that will see standard rates undercutting from May when the Abbey cuts its standard mortgage to 12.85 per cent and its rate for loans over £60,000 to 12.15 per cent.

Those taking issue two in August 1989, at 12.25 per cent, have their payments fixed until December 1991. That undercut standard mortgage rates by 1.5 per cent at the launch, had no fee and could be taken on any type of loan. On a £60,000 fixed-rate loan, borrowers would have paid £10,868.38 to date compared with £12,296.06 for variable.

National Westminster Bank has offered eight fixed-rate mortgages ranging from 9.85 per cent in March 1988 to 13.85 per cent last June. It currently has fixed-rate loans at 12.75 per cent.

Gil Gillis, the managing director of NatWest Home Loans, said: "People are much better at assessing fixed rates now. They realise that the price reflects the market's expectation of interest rates."

Midland Bank has offered fixed rates from 10.2 per cent to 12.5 per cent since March 1987. All of the borrowers who took out these loans were



Pay off: David Collins and Philippa Hopwood save £250 a month on their mortgage

offered further tranches of fixed-rate loans at 13.6 to 14.4 per cent last year.

Barclays has offered four fixed-rate mortgages, starting at 13.4 per cent in November 1989. The bank says these loans were slow to be appreciated. But in the first quarter of this year, 80 per cent of loans were taken at fixed rates.

TSB has offered 13 fixed-rate mortgages, starting with two at 9.9 per cent over five years. Last summer it offered 13.7 per cent over three years. It is now offering 12.5 per cent.

The Household Mortgage Corporation, which has made 20 fixed-rate offers since November 1988, reported that borrowers were wary at first. It is currently offering fixed-rate loans at 11.95 per cent.

The Skipton Building Society started offering fixed-rate loans in 1989 and now estimates 10 per cent of its mortgage book is at fixed rates.

Ian Darby, marketing director at John Charcol, the mortgage broker, said: "In 1988, most borrowers chose variable-rate loans, which proved disastrous as the public's perception was that interest rate falls would be sustained."

Lenders are reducing the number of conditions on fixed-rate loans. In the current competitive mortgage market they are happy to do good quality business and know they cannot restrict the choice of the type of mortgage or impose expensive extras with a fixed-rate loan or home buyers will go elsewhere. Penalties for early cashing in tend to be three months' notice during the fixed-rate period.

Adviser helped reduce payments

TAKING out a fixed-rate mortgage had not occurred to Paul Collin until John Charcol, an independent mortgage adviser, recommended one for the purchase of his £135,000 three bedroom house in Acton, west London (Sara McConnell writes).

Mr Collin, an account director with an advertising agency in Woking, Surrey, took out a mortgage of £92,000 with the Bank of Ireland, fixed at 11.25 per cent for three years, when he completed on his purchase in April 1989. The bank has calculated that between April 1989 and March 1991, Mr Collin saved £7,287. His mortgage repayment, covering just less than 70 per cent of the value of the property, is £792 per month plus £50 buildings insurance and £115 for an endowment policy, although this is not a condition of the mortgage.

Mr Collin, who pays some tax at the higher rate, and his wife, Pip, a basic rate taxpayer, are third-time buyers and they checked rates offered by building societies before opting for the Bank of Ireland's fixed-rate.

He said: "There is an uncertainty committing yourself to a fixed arrangement but I would call it a calculated risk rather than a gamble. A lot of my friends had variable rate mortgages and they are paying for this now."

Gamble paid off as costs kept climbing

By Sara McConnell

DAVID Collins took a gamble that interest rates would rise when he took out a mortgage of £103,000 with repayments fixed at 9.9 per cent for five years on his four bedroom detached house in Wickford, Essex, early in 1988.

At the time his gamble seemed risky. The fixed-rate was the same as TSB's variable rate but it looked as if rates would fall further. With the country enjoying a housing boom, there appeared to be no reason why it should not go lower, leaving those with fixed-rate mortgages locked into higher rates.

Mr Collins, a chartered surveyor, said: "I take an interest in the way the market works. It was a gamble but it paid off."

The house is owned jointly by Mr Collins, a higher rate taxpayer, and his girlfriend, Philippa Hopwood, who is a basic rate taxpayer. They benefit from two mortgage tax relief allowances because they bought the property before Nigel Lawson, a former Chancellor, clamped down on this perk in 1988. Mr Collins estimates that his fixed-rate

mortgage represents an average saving of £250 a month over the past three years.

Apart from this saving, Mr Collins liked the peace of mind of having a fixed-rate. "It gives a degree of certainty which is particularly useful with a larger mortgage," he said.

However, there are what Mr Collins describes as "prohibitive" penalties for cashing in the TSB mortgage before the end of the five-year term. TSB charges three times the monthly interest payment, which in his case is £742 a month, including buildings insurance. This would mean a total lump sum penalty payment of £2,226.

Mr Collins is planning to sell the Wickford property before the five-year term is up and is negotiating with TSB to have the charge waived because he is intending to take out another TSB mortgage. He sold a property earlier in 1988, which was also bought with a TSB mortgage of 9.9 per cent, and was not charged a redemption penalty although he had only had the original mortgage a year.

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Lenders cut charges

THE Halifax Building Society cut its standard mortgage rate to 12.95 per cent this week for new borrowers and for existing borrowers from May 1. This falls into line with the Nationwide, which cut its rate last week (Lindsay Cook writes).

The Halifax has also increased its first-time buyers' discount to 1.5 per cent and increased discounts for larger loans to give a rate of 12.15 per cent on loans of more than £60,000 and 11.95 per cent for loans over £100,000. The rates for larger loans are the same as those for the Abbey National, which cut its base rate to 12.85 per cent last week.

Other lenders are falling roughly into line on the basic mortgage rate. Lloyds Bank, Barclays Bank and TSB have set a 12.95 per cent rate. The Woolwich has cut to 12.9 per cent and the Skipton Building Society and Royal Bank of Scotland have dropped their rates to 12.85 per cent. Midland Bank will reduce its rate by 0.85 per cent to 13.1 per cent from Monday for new borrowers and on May 10 for existing borrowers. The rate for new endowment or pension loans of more than £50,000 will be 12.5 per cent.

TSB is offering a 2 per cent discount for first-time buyers for the first six months or 1 per cent for a year. Midland has a 1 per cent discount and Barclays has a 1.25 per cent discount for a year. New loans over £60,000 also attract a 1.25 per cent discount.

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Home guarantees perish with age

By MARGARET DIBBEN

NOW that housebuying is picking up, surveyors will start uncovering rotten beams, rising damp and woodworm that remained undetected during the existing owner's occupancy. Many sellers also discover that, even if the problem has been treated, they have to pay for the work to be done again.

However elaborate or authoritative a certificate looks, if the firm has gone out of business or been taken over, a guarantee is worthless. But it is now possible to guarantee these guarantees so that whatever happens, faulty workmanship will be put right and paid for under an insurance policy.

David Freeman set up the Guarantee Protection Trust (GPT) in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, in 1983 because, he says, "the industry was being undermined by public mistrust".

About £170 million is spent every year on remedial work

and damp proofing. Even reputable firms, small and large, can run into difficulties or be taken over. New owners will not necessarily honour existing guarantees.

GPT had a total of 200 members in 1983, of which 27 have ceased to trade. They now have 123 members with a total of 80,045 registrations for the insurance. Of these, 5,560 are registrations of contractors who have ceased trading. Only firms paying a subscription fee to GPT provide this double guarantee, but they do not have to offer it to every customer. When they do, customers pay £12.50 for 20 years insurance to underwrite the guarantee. There is nothing more to pay, however many times repairs have to be carried out under guarantee.

When Pauline Powell tried to sell her house in Clethorpe, Humberside, last year, the purchaser's surveyor discovered that the damp proof course she had put in four years earlier had broken down in several places. Until this was put right, the buyer could not obtain a mortgage. She then discovered the company that had done the work had gone out of business. Repair work was paid for under the guarantee scheme,



Damp proof: John James had guarantee covered

which now covers the new owner. Mr Freeman said that a typical claim costs £600. Quality control was difficult because all the work was invisible. Although dry rot was the most serious problem, the majority of claims concerned damp proof courses.

John James had a damp proof course put in at his house in Shepperton, Surrey, three years ago. "It only took

three days and looked very good but six months later we realised it was faulty when we got damp again. The firm was going to come back, but never appeared. Then they went bankrupt," he said.

"You take your life in your hands when you use firms you have never clapped eyes upon. You go on the estimates either for cheapness or expense or because you like the man who appears. It would have an-

noyed me if I had had to pay out more money."

Vice Admiral Sir Alan Grose had a problem with death-watch beetle at his home in Alresford, Essex.

"One of the first things I did five years ago was to have woodworm preservation work done by a large company in Hampshire, which came with the usual 25-year guarantee. I went to a bigger company and paid a bit more money because I had a problem in an earlier house with a small company," he said.

"Last year I thought I had a problem with one of the beams in the house, just about the time that the recession was beginning to bite. I contacted the firm but they had just gone into liquidation." After sending copies of contracts to GPT, the work was put right by a different company.

Michael Simmonds noticed signs of damp on the walls of his house in Walberton, West Sussex, when he moved in six years ago. The company that provided the damp proof course had to return several times before it was right. He complains that the insurance does not cover more. "Each time there is a turn of events, the insurance is damaged and walls need repainting. It doesn't cover that."

Shareholders learn their rights

By JONATHAN PRYNN

MANY private investors have been discovering that there is sometimes more to holding shares than cashing a dividend cheque every six months and looking up the price in a

newspaper from time to time. Since this year's stock market surge, many British companies have been asking their shareholders to stump up "cheap" funds by launching rights issues. If this week is anything to go by, the trend appears to be gathering pace. Already in 1991, more than £2.5 billion has been raised in this way, and further cash calls can be expected.

A rights issue is an invitation to shareholders to subscribe for new shares in proportion to the number of shares held. If the shareholder declines, the company generally receives the money anyway, as the issues are normally, but not always, underwritten by City institutions.

On first glance, a rights issue looks like a giveaway to shareholders. The new shares are almost always offered at a discount to the market price of the existing shares. For example, in this week's £74 million rights issue by Lloyds Chemists, the pharmacy chain, the rights issue shares were offered at 230p, a 16 per cent discount to the market price before the announcement of

the issue. In reality, the company is only "giving away" to the people who own it already.

There is often a benefit, however, for shareholders who decide not to subscribe. They may do this for a number of reasons, the most obvious being that they cannot afford to take up the offer. As long as the "theoretical" market price after the rights issue remains above the discounted offer price, other investors will be prepared to pay for the "right" to subscribe to the new, cheap shares.

This does not always happen, however. A sudden stock market plunge can easily wipe out the discount, rendering the rights worthless.

Assuming otherwise, shareholders can opt to raise cash by selling the rights through a broker. The theoretical ex-rights price is calculated by adding the market capitalisation of the share already in issue to the combined value of the new shares and dividing by the total number of shares after the rights issue. The discount effect means this price will be below the market price at the time the issue is

announced. The downside of selling the rights "nail paid" is that the shareholder's existing holding will be diluted because of the ex-rights effect.

But even if the shareholder can afford to take up the rights, there may be good reasons for not doing so. If the company does not have a good reason for its use of the funds, the investor may decide that hard-earned cash would be better placed elsewhere.

In the recent Bass rights issue, the market was unimpressed by the company's unspecific explanation for the cash call. Only if the returns from the investment for which the rights issue funds are earmarked are likely to exceed the returns on other forms of investment available should the private shareholder be tempted by the offer.

It is up to each shareholder to decide whether the company's story merits putting up new cash or whether the company is simply using its investors to bail itself out of trouble. Usually, the company will distribute any benefit of selling the rights back to the shareholder.

REGISTERED customers applying for shares in the two Scottish electricity companies can choose either £18 of electricity vouchers for every 100 shares allocated to a maximum of £270, or a one-for-ten share bonus in their own company. They can also receive a one-to-twenty bonus in the other company, an offer open to non-customers restricted to buying shares in both.

□ A private health insurance plan that provides cover for treatment normally excluded from policies, such as routine dentistry, out-patient prescriptions and alternative medicine, has been launched by Strasbourg UK, the French insurer, and is called Freechoice.

□ The Royal Bank of Scotland is to introduce an annual fee for its Access and Visa card holders in the next few

months, although it has not yet set a fee. Cards where interest billed is above a certain figure, again yet to be specified, will not have the fee added.

□ Investors with privatisation holdings will be able to sell their shares for £20 a deal through the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society from April 22. Up to three members of the family can deal for £5 per certificate.

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*MIM Britannia is the business name of INVESCO MIM Management Limited, which is a member of IMRO and a subsidiary of INVESCO MIM PLC.

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Address

Postcode

Date of Birth



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*Source: Mactel. Offer to Offer: Income reinvested since launch to 16.4.91. Share prices can go down as well as up, and past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Bank felt charitable on Comic Relief day

PROTE AS INT

Buildings

CA

Bank felt charitable on Comic Relief day

By SARA MCCONNELL

THIS year's Comic Relief has raised £16 million so far, with more expected, but of greater importance for one Lloyds Bank customer was the outpouring of charitable feeling generated at Lloyds Bank Insurance Services on March 16, Comic Relief day.

Marcus Croome, a Weekend Money reader, billed Lloyds for £25 for time taken up on the phone to market researchers employed by the bank. Because his letter arrived at Lloyds on Comic Relief day, the bank decided to make a goodwill gesture and pay £25 to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, a charity chosen by Mr Croome.

However, a Lloyds spokeswoman said: "We wouldn't normally countenance this but because Mr Croome's letter arrived on Comic Relief day, we felt charitable."

Mr Croome took exception to two telephone calls, within 20 minutes of each other, that he and his wife received in January this year from Taylor Nelson Financial, a market research company, which was interviewing Lloyds customers to discover what they wanted from their home contents insurance.

Mr Croome said he was "surprised and delighted" that Lloyds had paid his bill. "I wasn't expecting any reaction at all and I would give them ten out of ten for their gesture on Comic Relief day."

Lloyds said it carried out market research on what its customers wanted and had picked three branches at random. The names and addresses of 900 customers from these branches had been chosen by the central computer but no telephone numbers or confidential details were given.

Lloyds Bank Insurance Services had written to these people to explain the research and gave them a chance to refuse to participate. A spokeswoman said if they did not reply to the letter, they could still refuse when the market research company made the call.

Data error leads to double trouble with NI number

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

THE danger of using National Insurance numbers for general identification purposes has been brought home by the experience of a Weekend Money reader who was pursued by debt collectors seeking another man with the same number.

Eric Howe, the data protection registrar, has campaigned against the increasing use of National Insurance numbers by the government and financial institutions. Last year he gave warning in his annual report of the possibility of "data matching" if the same identifier was used repeatedly.

The first indication that Craig Lord, the Weekend Money reader, had that anything was wrong was when a private detective telephoned him early in the morning saying his car was going to be repossessed.

Mr Lord told the caller that his car was bought with a bank loan that had been paid. It was also a different model and registration number from the one the detective had been employed to locate. Over the next few days, he received other calls in the same vein.

They were followed by a letter from his local social security office at Bracknell, Berkshire, which asked Mr Lord to report for an interview, and to bring his birth certificate and any documents.

Records wrong: Mr Lord was sharing an NI number



Records wrong: Mr Lord was sharing an NI number

menary evidence held to indicate a National Insurance number other than the one he had used for the past seven years. It also required him to prepare a list of all the addresses he had lived at, a list of the names and addresses of all employers and periods of employment plus a list of all claims to benefit he had made.

When he contacted the office he was also asked to take along all his P60 forms dating from 1984 when he graduated from Aberdeen University. The forms are issued with wage slips by employers at the end of each financial year.

Fortunately, Mr Lord had had only three main employers during the seven years, but had done extra work for some

other firms during the time. At the interview, he was told the National Insurance contributions paid on this work might be lost if he could not prove he had done the work.

He was also told that he had been given the same number as someone with a similar name who was born on the same day. As the other person had started work and paying NI contributions before Mr Lord, he was asked to apply for a new number.

When he reached the part of the form that asked if he had ever applied for a National Insurance number before, the social services department official advised him to leave it blank. "She told me it would just confuse headquarters in

Newcastle," said Mr Lord, who objected because part of the form was a declaration that all the information was correct. Mr Lord is now awaiting a new number and to discover whether his records show all his contributions.

A spokeswoman for the social security department said when someone applies for a number their details are put through the computer. In this case, there was a number for someone with a similar name born within a couple of days of Mr Lord. Someone had assumed they were the same person. This kind of mistake was not common, she said.

The department had more than 50 million names on the computer and took greater care with common surnames, such as Smith, to make sure this type of mistake did not happen.

The government is using the National Insurance number on an increasing number of official forms and companies are also using them because, as identifiers, they should be unique.

People taking out personal equity plans must give their NI numbers, as must those registering for gross payment of interest on bank and building society savings accounts. The government had wanted to use NI numbers for participants in the student loans scheme, but backed down last year after protests from the data protection registrar.

Tough line on tax

THE Inland Revenue is to tighten up on tax evasion on savings accounts. The department will soon announce new reporting thresholds for interest earned on savings accounts in 1991-2.

These will be much lower than the levels for 1990-1, which means the Inland Revenue will be told by banks and building societies of the interest paid to most investors. Building societies were only required to report to the Inland Revenue on accounts

earning £1,400 or more in 1990-1. Banks had to provide information on accounts earning £500 and local authorities only had to report on investors earning £500 or more on bonds. National Savings reported earnings over £250.

In the past, some investors have kept their accounts with individual societies or banks below the reporting levels. In this way they may have dishonestly avoided paying higher rate tax on savings.

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Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of units and the income from them may go down as well as up and the investor may not get back the amount invested. Issued by Fidelity Investments Limited, a member of IMRO, LAUTRO and the UTA. * Source: Mifund offer to bid with net income reinvested to 1/4/91. Five year figures from 1/4/86 to 1/4/91: +29.9%.

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For many, including British industry, this is good news. But, if you rely on building society savings, or are thinking about retirement and want income in the future, further cuts are not such good news.

As one of the leading investment houses in the country, Save & Prosper believes you need to protect and increase the capital your future income depends on - as well as growing income - now.

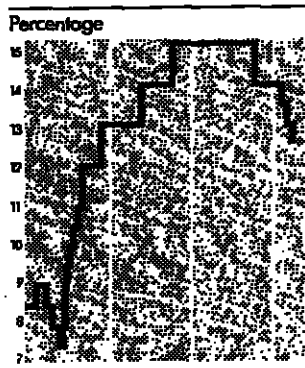
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UK Banks' Base rate



known British companies with a good track record and good growth prospects. And it is these same companies which should enjoy improved profits from falling interest rates and lower inflation.

But, our strategy for High Return is also to have some exposure to smaller companies, a sector that is already starting to improve and one that will benefit from renewed economic growth.

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In fact, High Return provides an excellent demonstration of what Save & Prosper has tried to offer investors for over 50 years, a good return on their money, but at a level of risk they find acceptable.

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	HIGH RETURN	BUILDING SOCIETY
£5,000 INVESTED	VALUE OF CAPITAL	VALUE OF CAPITAL
5 YRS	£6,280	£5,000
10 YRS	£7,405	£5,000
15 YRS	£8,035	£5,000
	NET INCOME IN LAST YEAR	NET INCOME IN LAST YEAR
5 YRS	£240	£445
10 YRS	£930	£445
15 YRS	£1,230	£445

To 14/91 Offer to bid *Source: Mifund

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This new unit trust aims for both high income and maximum total returns by investing in quality high yielding international bonds - primarily government and corporate bonds of countries such as New Zealand, Canada, Italy, Spain, Australia, UK and Denmark. High yielding bond markets have, as a whole, outperformed lower yielding bond markets over the past five years - as shown by the examples of Spanish and New Zealand bonds above.

Global High offers many attractive features - including an estimated initial gross yield of 9.5% and a worthwhile introductory 1% discount. Furthermore, bond investment avoids the high risks of the equity market - particularly after its recent strength - and a bond unit trust further diversifies the risk by offering a broadly spread portfolio. Global High will benefit from Guinness Flight's expertise as leading fund managers. Currently, Guinness Flight manage or advise on US\$1.5 billion in bond and currency investments.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future, currency and interest rate fluctuations can cause prices and yields to fall as well as rise. Deduction of charges means you may not get back the full amount you invested.

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*Total returns in Sterling, EFFAS/ABIO All Stock Bond Indices, 01.01.86-31.12.90, source Datastream.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Bank	Current rate	25% rate	45% rate	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Day A/c	2.85	2.85	2.12	none/none	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits					
1 month	8.02	8.02	8.42	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-228 1987
3 months	8.04	8.04	8.67	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-228 1987
6 months	7.91	7.91	8.61	2,500-no max	6 mth Local Branch
1 year	7.89	7.89	8.07	2,500-no max	1 y Local Branch
2 years	7.88	7.88	8.15	10,000-no max	2 y 071-228 2206
3 years	7.84	7.84	8.11	10,000-no max	3 y 071-228 2206
4 years	7.89	7.89	8.07	10,000-24,000	4 y 071-228 1000
5 years	7.88	7.88	8.20	10,000-24,000	5 y 071-228 1000

Bank	Current rate	25% rate	45% rate	Notice	Contact
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Bank of Scotland M&C	7.51	7.58	6.38	2,500	none 031-442 7777
Barclays	8.94	7.12	5.70	2,500	none 0804 252891
Prime a/c					
Co-operative	3.40	3.40	2.72	2,500	none 071 628 6543
Libra	8.99	8.99	5.58	1,000	none 031 998 2078
London Trust	3.33	3.33	2.43	500	none 0272 433372
Midland WCA	6.56	6.56	5.36	2,000	none
NatWest	6.38	6.58	5.28	500	none 071-974 3374
Overseas Bank	7.20	7.40	5.92	2,500	none 071-558 8855
South West a/c					
WCA	6.26	6.26	6.01	2,000	none 071-600 6000

Bank	Current rate	25% rate	45% rate	Notice	Contact
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary Share	5.25	6.25	4.30	1 mth	none
Best buy - largest soc:					
Nationside Ang	8.25	8.25	6.80	1 mth	none
Paragon	8.25	8.25	7.55	500 mth	none
Cheltenham & G	10.28	10.28	8.22	2,500 mth	none
West Bromwich	10.28	10.28	8.22	20,000 mth	90 day
Barclay & West	11.25	11.25	9.00	25,000 mth	1 year
Best buy - all socs:					
Cheltenham & G	10.28	10.28	8.22	2,500 mth	none
Holmhead & B	9.21	9.42	7.54	500 mth	28 day
Norwich & Peter	10.23	11.24	9.99	10,000 mth	85 day
West Bromwich	10.28	10.28	8.22	10,000 mth	90 day
Newcastle	11.25	11.25	9.00	5,000 mth	1 year

Bank	Current rate	25% rate	45% rate	Notice	Contact
Cash/Cheque Accounts					
Barclays	4.58	6.05	4.04	25 mth	Rates rise
Albion & Lloy	5.44	5.44	4.35	25 mth	with target
Co-operative	3.38	3.38	2.70	1 mth	balances

Bank	Current rate	25% rate	45% rate	Notice	Contact
NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day 041-548-4555
Investment A/c	12.25	9.15	7.35	25,000	3 mth 041-548-4555
Deposit Bond	13.50	10.15	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 0523 091151
Deposit Bond	13.50	10.15	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 041-548-4555
Deposit Bond	13.50	10.15	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 041-548-4555
Deposit Bond	13.50	10.15	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 041-548-4555
Deposit Bond	13.50	10.15	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 041-548-4555
Deposit Bond	13.50	10.15	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 041-548-4555
Deposit Bond	13.50	10.15	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 041-548-4555
Deposit Bond	13.50	10.15	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth 041-548-4555

Bank	Current rate	25% rate	45% rate	Notice	Contact
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
Account	9.50	8.80	8.16	20,000 mth	1 yrs Figures from
Financial Ass	9.25	8.25	7.88	5,000 mth	2 yrs Change de
Security Life	9.25	8.25	7.88	25,000 mth	3 yrs Vary
Guaranteed Life	9.25	8.25	7.88	2,000 mth	5 yrs 071 404 5799
Avon	9.50	8.50	8.08	25,000 mth	5 yrs for details

Bank	Current rate	25% rate	45% rate	Notice	Contact
OTHER (FINANCE HOUSE)					
U.C.B.	12.15	12.15	8.16	50	Rate fixed for five
071 770 5170					years

Bank	Current rate	25% rate	45% rate	Notice	Contact
LARGER LOANS					
Leader					
Interest Rate %					
Loan Size					
Max %					
Notes					

Bank	Current rate	25% rate	45% rate	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Abbey National	11.95	2100K+	90		
071 512 4304					

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BANKS					
Abbey National	11.95	2100K+	90		
071 512 4304					

43	+3	+3	+3	+3	+2		
44	+1	+4	+2	+3	+2		

The Times previews the £750,000 world snooker championship, which breaks off at the Crucible in Sheffield today

Hendry harbours dark thoughts of destroying Davis

By STEVE ACTON

STEPHEN Hendry, the holder, and Jimmy White, last year's runner-up, both believe they will win the Embassy world championship, which begins at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, today, and ends on May 6. Only one can reach the final, however, as they are seeded to meet in the semi-finals if they safely negotiate the top, and much harder, half of the 32-strong field.

Hendry, aged 22, has won seven of this season's leading events, including a record haul of five world ranking titles. Not bad going for someone who confessed: "I was honestly worried that, after winning the world title, I would have a bad season."

"I've seen it happen to people before - Joe Johnson, in particular, and to a lesser extent, Dennis Taylor - and I was worried the same thing could happen to me. I wasn't actually thinking about it, but you dread people thinking you are just going to be a one-season wonder. To have won so many tournaments has relieved a lot of the pressure."

White, aged 28, the world No. 4, was responsible for exerting much of that pressure at the turn of the year, when he twice beat Hendry in finals. "Jimmy was becoming a bit of a worry, but I stopped that by beating him 6-1 in the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters," Hendry

said. "It was a very important result for me."

Hendry now regards himself and White as the "big two" yet still harbours dark thoughts about Steve Davis. He feels he must convince the public that he, Hendry, really is the No. 1 and believes he can only prove it by publicly destroying the six-time former champion in the world final.

"The big two now is me and Jimmy, because Steve isn't producing the standard he needs to regularly beat us," Hendry said. "He needs three or four chances to win frames, and I can't give him that."

PRIZE MONEY: Winner, £125,000; runner-up, £25,000; semi-final losers, £12,500 each; quarter-final losers, £6,250 each; consolation final, £3,125. Total prize money, £750,000.

ORDER OF PLAY: First round: Today, 10.30am, Hendry (2) v King (1); 1.30pm, White (4) v Taylor (3); 3.30pm, Davis (6) v Higgins (5); 5.30pm, McManus (7) v Gould (8); 7.30pm, Hargrett (9) v Bevan (10); 9.30pm, O'Sullivan (11) v Nott (12); 11.30pm, Higgins (13) v White (14); 1.30pm, Hendry (15) v King (16); 3.30pm, White (17) v Taylor (18); 5.30pm, Davis (19) v Higgins (20); 7.30pm, McManus (21) v Gould (22); 9.30pm, Hargrett (23) v Bevan (24); 11.30pm, Higgins (25) v White (26); 1.30pm, Hendry (27) v King (28); 3.30pm, White (29) v Taylor (30); 5.30pm, Davis (31) v Higgins (32); 7.30pm, McManus (33) v Gould (34); 9.30pm, Hargrett (35) v Bevan (36); 11.30pm, Higgins (37) v White (38); 1.30pm, Hendry (39) v King (40); 3.30pm, White (41) v Taylor (42); 5.30pm, Davis (43) v Higgins (44); 7.30pm, McManus (45) v Gould (46); 9.30pm, Hargrett (47) v Bevan (48); 11.30pm, Higgins (49) v White (50); 1.30pm, Hendry (51) v King (52); 3.30pm, White (53) v Taylor (54); 5.30pm, Davis (55) v Higgins (56); 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1.30pm, Hendry (843) v King (844); 3.30pm, White (845) v Taylor (846); 5.30pm, Davis (847) v Higgins (848); 7.30pm, McManus (849) v Gould (850); 9.30pm, Hargrett (851) v Bevan (852); 11.30pm, Higgins (853) v White (854); 1.30pm, Hendry (855) v King (856); 3.30pm, White (857) v Taylor (858); 5.30pm, Davis (859) v Higgins (860); 7.30pm, McManus (861) v Gould (862); 9.30pm, Hargrett (863) v Bevan (864); 11.30pm, Higgins (865) v White (866); 1.30pm, Hendry (867) v King (868); 3.30pm, White (869) v Taylor (870); 5.30pm, Davis (871) v Higgins (872); 7.30pm, McManus (873) v Gould (874); 9.30pm, Hargrett (875) v Bevan (876); 11.30pm, Higgins (877) v White (878); 1.30pm, Hendry (879) v King (880); 3.30pm, White (881) v Taylor (882); 5.30pm, Davis (883) v Higgins (884); 7.30pm, McManus (885) v Gould (886); 9.30pm, Hargrett (887) v Bevan (888); 11.30pm, Higgins (889) v White (890); 1.30pm, Hendry (891) v King (892); 3.30pm, White (893) v Taylor (894); 5.30pm, Davis (895) v Higgins (896); 7.30pm, McManus (897) v Gould (898); 9.30pm, Hargrett (899) v Bevan (900); 11.30pm, Higgins (901) v White (902); 1.30pm, Hendry (903) v King (904); 3.30pm, White (905) v Taylor (906); 5.30pm, Davis (907) v Higgins (908); 7.30pm, McManus (909) v Gould (910); 9.30pm, Hargrett (911) v Bevan (912); 11.30pm, Higgins (913) v White (914); 1.30pm, Hendry (915) v King (916); 3.30pm, White (917) v Taylor (918); 5.30pm, Davis (919) v Higgins (920); 7.30pm, McManus (921) v Gould (922); 9.30pm, Hargrett (923) v Bevan (924); 11.30pm, Higgins (925) v White (926); 1.30pm, Hendry (927) v King (928); 3.30pm, White (929) v Taylor (930); 5.30pm, Davis (931) v Higgins (932); 7.30pm, McManus (933) v Gould (934); 9.30pm, Hargrett (935) v Bevan (936); 11.30pm, Higgins (937) v White (938); 1.30pm, Hendry (939) v King (940); 3.30pm, White (941) v Taylor (942); 5.30pm, Davis (943) v Higgins (944); 7.30pm, McManus (945) v Gould (946); 9.30pm, Hargrett (947) v Bevan (948); 11.30pm, Higgins (949) v White (950); 1.30pm, Hendry (951) v King (952); 3.30pm, White (953) v Taylor (954); 5.30pm, Davis (955) v Higgins (956); 7.30pm, McManus (957) v Gould (958); 9.30pm, Hargrett (959) v Bevan (960); 11.30pm, Higgins (961) v White (962); 1.30pm, Hendry (963) v King (964); 3.30pm, White (965) v Taylor (966); 5.30pm, Davis (967) v Higgins (968); 7.30pm, McManus (969) v Gould (970); 9.30pm, Hargrett (971) v Bevan (972); 11.30pm, Higgins (973) v White (974); 1.30pm, Hendry (975) v King (976); 3.30pm, White (977) v Taylor (978); 5.30pm, Davis (979) v Higgins (980); 7.30pm, McManus (981) v Gould (982); 9.30pm, Hargrett (983) v Bevan (984); 11.30pm, Higgins (985) v White (986); 1.30pm, Hendry (987) v King (988); 3.30pm, White (989) v Taylor (990); 5.30pm, Davis (991) v Higgins (992); 7.30pm, McManus (993) v Gould (994); 9.30pm, Hargrett (995) v Bevan (996); 11.30pm, Higgins (997) v White (998); 1.30pm, Hendry (999) v King (1000); 3.30pm, White (1001) v Taylor (1002); 5.30pm, Davis (1003) v Higgins (1004); 7.30pm, McManus (1005) v Gould (1006); 9.30pm, Hargrett (1007) v Bevan (1008); 11.30pm, Higgins (1009) v White (1010); 1.30pm, Hendry (1011) v King (1012); 3.30pm, White (1013) v Taylor (1014); 5.30pm, Davis (1015) v Higgins (1016); 7.30pm, McManus (1017) v Gould (1018); 9.30pm, Hargrett (1019) v Bevan (1020); 11.30pm, Higgins (1021) v White (1022); 1.30pm, Hendry (1023) v King (1024); 3.30pm, White (1025) v Taylor (1026); 5.30pm, Davis (1027) v Higgins (1028); 7.30pm, McManus (1029) v Gould (1030); 9.30pm, Hargrett (1031) v Bevan (1032); 11.30pm, Higgins (1033) v White (1034); 1.30pm, Hendry (1035) v King (1036); 3.30pm, White (1037) v Taylor (1038); 5.30pm, Davis (1039) v Higgins (1040); 7.30pm, McManus (1041) v Gould (1042); 9.30pm, Hargrett (1043) v Bevan (1044); 11.30pm, Higgins (1045) v White (1046); 1.30pm, Hendry (1047) v King (1048); 3.30pm, White (1049) v Taylor (1050); 5.30pm, Davis (1051) v Higgins (1052); 7.30pm, McManus (1053) v Gould (1054); 9.30pm, Hargrett (1055) v Bevan (1056); 11.30pm, Higgins (1057) v White (1058); 1.30pm, Hendry (1059) v King (1060); 3.30pm, White (1061) v Taylor (1062); 5.30pm, Davis (1063) v Higgins (1064); 7.30pm, McManus (1065) v Gould (1066); 9.30pm, Hargrett (1067) v Bevan (1068); 11.30pm, Higgins (

Mukaddamah can press his classic claim in Greenham

MUKADDAMAH has an excellent chance today to win the Singer and Friedlander Greenham Stakes at Newbury as a prelude to an attempt on the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket in two weeks' time.

From a linguist's point of view, it would not be inappropriate since Mukaddamah is a prelude in Arabic.

It proves Willie Carson with a fascinating opportunity to test out another leading classic contender belonging to Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, who says his familiar blue and white racing silks carried to victory by Marju in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket two days ago.

While Marju was said to have been working very lazily throughout the run-up to his trial, Mukaddamah, in contrast, has been striding out with gay abandon on his trainer Peter Walwyn's famous Faringdon Road gallop on the outskirts of Lambourn.

Having watched Mukaddamah in action twice recently, I can testify to his fitness and exuberant heart. He was unlucky to lose his unbeaten record as a two-year-old when pipped on the post by Peter Davies at Doncaster in October. Now I expect him to regain the winning trait at

the expense of the Laurent Potrier Champagne Stakes winner Bog Trotter, who was noted going well in a mixed gallop with some of Michael Stoute's horses recently.

After winning the Champagne, Bog Trotter was beaten twice at Newmarket, first by Peter Davies, then by Generoso, who had earlier finished third in a race won by Mukaddamah at Goodwood.

The Lanes End John Porter Stakes marks the reappearance, after a lengthy injury, of Rock Hopper, the one-time favourite for last year's Derby after winning the Lingfield trial.

Current reports from Newmarket suggest that Rock Hopper is now fit to make up for lost time.

Having already ridden a winner for Julie Cecil this week, Lester Piggott can put the icing on the cake by leading the Miller Construction Spring Cup for her mother, Lady Maudslayi, on the Lincoln road to Newmarket.

Morn Of Song (2.0) and Axe (4.0) are my other fancies on the Berkshire track where

their practice is napped to take full advantage of his high draw and win the Chicheley Handicap after impressing at Kempton on his seasonal debut.

At Think, Bill O'Gorman and Alan Munro have sound prospects of winning the first three races on the programme there with Maca Backaroo (2.15), Mac's Imp (2.45) and Haky (3.15).

On the jumping front at Ayr, Bigsun will try to emulate his elder half-brother Andromeda and win the William Hill Scottish National. Well that he is capable of going at his best, I still doubt him being good enough to beat the in-form Ossett, the recent winner of the Irish equivalent.

On the evidence of his impressive win at Liverpool earlier this month, Young Beak looks capable of beating the recent easy Sandown winner Golden Celtic in the Edinburgh Woolen Mill's Future Champion Novices' Chase.

As far as the Scottish Farm Dairy Foods Novices' Handicap Hurdle is concerned, I like none better than Fiskish, who landed my nap in some style on the same track last month, having also won there earlier in the season.

3.30 WELFORD HANDICAP CHASE (€3,785; 2m) (9)

1. 2.01 GUSBURGH NERVEN 10 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

4.00 BAULKING GREEN TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE (Amateur; €1,980; 2m) (14)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

4.30 FIRST NATIONAL HANDICAP HURDLE (€3,174; 2m) (16)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

5.00 LONG MARSTON NOVICES CHASE (Div II; €3,018; 2m) (13)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

5.30 STAYERS NOVICES HURDLE (Div I; €2,180; 2m) (17)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

3.00 LONG MARSTON NOVICES CHASE (Div II; €3,038; 2m) (13)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

COURSE SPECIALISTS

- TRAINERS: R. A. Hobb, 11 winners from 20 runners, 37.5%.
- JOCKEYS: D. M. Pops, 11 winners from 20 runners, 37.5%.
- 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

NEWBURY

- MANDARIN 2.00 Morn Of Song. 2.30 St. Ninian. 3.00 Mukaddamah. 3.30 Rock Hopper. 4.00 Axe. 4.30 CHICHELAY PRACTICE. 4.30 Bold Lee.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Morn Of Song. 4.00 AXE (nap).

GOING: GOOD. DRAW: HIGH NUMBERS FAVOURED UP TO 1M STRAIGHT.

2.00 BRIDGET MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (3-Y-O; €3,915; 7f) (18)

1. 2.01 CRADLE OF LOVE (C. Wright) P. Cole 9-11
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

2.30 MILLER CONSTRUCTION SPRING CUP (Handicap; €11,210; 1m 20f) (20 runners)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

3.00 SINGER & FRIEDLANDER GREENHAM STAKES (Group II; 3-Y-O colts and geldings; £22,134; 7f)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

3.30 SINGER & FRIEDLANDER GREENHAM STAKES (Group II; 3-Y-O colts and geldings; £22,134; 7f)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

4.00 BAULKING GREEN TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE (Amateur; €1,980; 2m) (14)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

4.30 FIRST NATIONAL HANDICAP HURDLE (€3,174; 2m) (16)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

5.00 LONG MARSTON NOVICES CHASE (Div II; €3,018; 2m) (13)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

5.30 STAYERS NOVICES HURDLE (Div I; €2,180; 2m) (17)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

COURSE SPECIALISTS

- TRAINERS: R. A. Hobb, 11 winners from 20 runners, 37.5%.
- JOCKEYS: D. M. Pops, 11 winners from 20 runners, 37.5%.
- 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

3.30 LANES END JOHN PORTER EBF STAKES (Group II; £24,813; 1m 4f) (10 runners)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

4.00 COMPTON MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O; £4,370; 1m) (25 runners)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

4.30 CHEVELEY HANDICAP (€4,857; 5f) (21 runners)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

4.55 WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH NATIONAL (Handicap Chase; Grade II; £27,010; 4m 120yds) (22 runners)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

5.00 LONG MARSTON NOVICES CHASE (Div II; €3,018; 2m) (13)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

5.30 STAYERS NOVICES HURDLE (Div I; €2,180; 2m) (17)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

5.40 DONCASTER BLOODSTOCK SALES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (€4,760; 2m) (25 runners)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

5.40 DONCASTER BLOODSTOCK SALES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (€4,760; 2m) (25 runners)

1. 2.01 LATE DELIVERY 14 (D.F.) P. Hobb 9-120
2. 1/1-1 MY CUP OF TEA 888 (D.F.) M. Pops 9-119
3. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
4. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
5. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
6. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
7. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
8. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12
9. 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

COURSE SPECIALISTS

- TRAINERS: R. A. Hobb, 11 winners from 20 runners, 37.5%.
- JOCKEYS: D. M. Pops, 11 winners from 20 runners, 37.5%.
- 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

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- 10/12 AMARI KING 15 (D.F.) S. T. Foster 7-10-12

When demi-gods came down to earth with a thud

[illegible]

